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Photo courtesy UNITED NATIONS/ Y. NAGATA

Dr. Jacques Vallée addresses the Assembly
Behind Dr. Vallée is Sir E. Gairy, and behind him, Dr. J. Allen Hynek.

UFO DEBATE AT U.N.O

See page 5

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

Editor CHARLES BOWEN
Consultants
GORDON CREIGHTON, MA, FRAI, FRGS, FRAS
C. MAXWELL CADE, AInstP, FRAS, AFRAeS, CEng, FIEE, FIERE
BERNARD E. FINCH, MRCS, LRCP, DCh, FBIS
CHARLES H. GIBBS-SMITH, MA, FMA, Hon Companion RAeS, FRSA
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I. GRATTAN-GUINNESS, MA, MSc, PhD, DSc PERCEY HENNELL, FIBP
Overseas J. ALLEN HYNEK, PhD
AIME MICHEL BERTHOLD E. SCHWARZ, MD
Secretarial Assistant JENNY RANDLES

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HOUSE OF LORDS DEBATE

THE first ever British parliamentary debate of UFOs took place at Westminster on 18 January 1979, in the noble precincts of the House of Lords. The debate, which was introduced by the Earl of Clancarty, had been arranged many weeks before, following questions which the Earl had put to the Government, so it was unfortunate that it took place in the midst of a period of industrial strife and severe wintry weather. One of the several strikes taking place that day resulted in a complete stoppage of Britain's railways, and a great crush of traffic on the roads, and it was for that reason that members of the *Flying Saucer Review* team who had been invited to hear the debate were unable to attend. Fortunately all debates — indeed, all matters — are officially reported, word for word, in Hansard.[1]

Before his elevation to the peerage Lord Clancarty was well-known as the Honourable Brinsley le Poer Trench, and had written seven books on various aspects of ufology. From July 1956 to September 1959 he was editor of *Flying Saucer Review*. He therefore had considerable experience to draw upon when preparing his introductory speech.

At 7.07 p.m. he rose to "... call attention to the increasing number of sightings and landings on a world-wide scale of unidentified flying objects (UFOs), and to the need for an intra-governmental[2] study of UFOs." Looking forward to a stimulating discussion, he gave an outline of the subject which, although it came to the fore after World War II, may well have existed throughout history. He alluded here to a possible Egyptian UFO report from the time of Thutmose III c. 1504 - 1450 B.C., before passing to the Foo fighters seen by both Allied and German pilots during the war. Their lordships heard of Kenneth Arnold and his "saucer" sighting in 1947; of sightings by astronomers; of shapes and sizes of reported objects; of possible UFO-associated blackouts; of E.M. effects on the engines of motor vehicles and aircraft; of the sighting of Captain James Howard, the crew and many passengers of the B.O.A.C. *Stratocruiser* over the Atlantic on 29 June 1954; of the 1975 incidents at Strategic Air Command bases in Michigan, Montana, Maine and North Dakota, and about the Tehran incident in September 1976, when Iranian Air Force *Phantom* jets were scrambled and suffered communications and instrument systems malfunctions.

Suggesting he would like to see the establishment of a House of Lords UFO Study Group, he touched on the attitudes of Governments towards the subject; on the influence of the CIA with its directives that the U.S. Armed Services should debunk all UFO reports; on the position believed to exist in the Soviet Union, where a leading ufologist is Dr. Felix Zigel, and where the Academy of Sciences clamped down on the emerging UFO study group[3], on the famous broadcast on 21 February 1974 by M. Robert Galley, French Minister of Defence at that time, and on the establishment of the scientific study unit GEPAN at the National Centre for Space Studies at Toulouse, under the French Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Artisans.[4]

In closing, Lord Clancarty assured their lordships that "...most

incidents have not been hostile, we have not been invaded from outer space," and requested that Her Majesty's Government should inform the people of what they knew about UFOs, and that Lord Strabolgi (who was to reply for the Government) should ask "...his right honourable friend the Minister of Defence about the possibility of giving a broadcast interview about UFOs, as his counterpart across the Channel did in 1974. That would go a long way to discredit the view...that there is a cover-up here..."

The Earl of Clancarty had put together a good case and, thankfully, had kept well clear of those "Holes at the Poles" which had created such an unfortunate impression in Hugh Burnett's BBC-TV documentary in 1977. When he sat down at 7.29 p.m. he was followed by **Lord Trefgarne** (Conservative) for the Opposition. He would not support the establishment of an intra-governmental study as he felt the matter did not warrant expenditure of public moneys. He did not believe in UFOs, for in the course of some 2500 hours flying as a pilot, including many crossings of the Atlantic Ocean, he had never seen one. He was also sure that radar could not be held as a valid supporting argument in the case of the recent New Zealand sightings, and he wished to ask the right reverend Prelate, the Bishop of Norwich – who was to speak in the debate – "whether the existence of another race, or races, outside our universe is compatible with our Christian principles."

There followed a debate on a high level, with erudite participants. **The Earl of Kimberley** (Liberal) was next, and gave support to Lord Clancarty with further briefing, including the United States interest which manifested in Project Blue Book, and that became a public relations exercise not to inform the public on the subject. Lord Kimberley listed governments which, he said, acknowledge the existence of UFOs, and some prominent people who, through evidence, acknowledged that existence.

In a maiden speech the **Viscount of Oxfuird** (Conservative) discussed the advance in cosmology, suggested that it was unlikely that UFOs came from some "secret effort" on this earth, and that to understand the UFO question we should have to understand something beyond cosmology today.

Lord Davies of Leek (Labour) stated there was a case for the existence of flying saucers, and that "...if one human being out of the tens of thousands who allege to have seen these phenomena is telling the truth, then there is a dire need for us to look into the matter...we know that poltergeists exist; we know about their activities. Therefore do not be so ready to scoff at UFOs..."

The Lord Bishop of Norwich expressed his fear that UFOs and their study seemed "to link with a certain religious subculture which...offers a substitute for the true catholic [*in the sense of 'universal, all embracing'*] religion," drawing young people into a sub-Christian, sometimes non-Christian cult, controlled by a dominant leader.[5] About Lord Trefgarne's question, he said he did not know, but that he believed there was a place for reverent Christian agnosticism concerning what is *not* revealed in the scriptures, and that God may have other plans for other worlds – the plan for this world being Jesus.

Lord Gladwyn (Liberal) spoke of the over-population of our planet and the consequent increase of violence and appalling wars, and of a human wish to "trust in other-worldly intervention." He agreed with the Bishop of Norwich who had said we should not put our trust in saucers for salvation, but rather learn to live in charity with our neighbours. He concluded that if the UFOs contain sentient beings, then leave them to get in touch with us when, and if, they will. He saw no need to set up intra-governmental machinery to investigate them.

Lord Kings Norton was puzzled by the use of the prefix "intra" instead of "inter," but would support the idea of a Government-supported open investigation by a carefully chosen group of scientists and technologists with some funds at their disposal.

Lord Rankeillour said the discussion regarding the nature and origin of UFOs is increasing throughout the world. He told of a recent incident at Farmington, New Mexico, where "a display of flying saucers literally filled the sky" watched as they manoeuvred and gyrated by almost the whole township of 5000 souls. "That was hardly a weather balloon convention." He observed that we had reached the point where Government explanations must be forthcoming. "A greater measure of open government is long overdue, and bringing the UFO saga into the realm of respectability would be one way of achieving this."

Lord Gainford, who spoke of a personal sighting when he was in Scotland for the New Year [*laughter*] said that provided there was no risk of a security breach, the public should have a right to know about UFOs.

The Earl of Halsbury, a scientist philosopher, gave an interesting dissertation on, among other things, mis-identifications of his guardian angel; of lenticular clouds illuminated by searchlights and "identified" (by him) as Zeppelins; of sundogs. He spoke also of the "green flash" (the last glim of the setting sun in certain conditions), and of ball lightning. He stated that he does not get vertigo when faced with unknown phenomena he cannot explain (a reply to an observation by Lord Kimberley).

Lord Hewlett (Conservative) stated he had been briefed by Sir Bernard Lovell and cast scorn on the existence of UFOs and supported his case by claiming that Jodrell Bank had been on watch 24 hours a day for 30 years yet had never *seen or observed* a UFO, although they had contrived to locate and track the tiny *Sputnik* when the Russians lost it.

The Earl of Cork and Orrery (Conservative) expressed disquiet at the views of his noble friend Lord Trefgarne, who had not spoken as a private Back Bencher but, instead, from the Dispatch Box, which indicated presumably that he represented the views of the Conservative Party. As a member of that Party he wished to disown entirely the views expressed by Lord Trefgarne on what is a serious subject; indeed he was ashamed of those views. And this descendant of Robert Boyle, the XVIIth Century

scientist who founded the Royal Society, was caustic in his comments on what was meant by UFOs (non-belief in them as objects? or as flying? or as unidentified?), and stated that it was unreasonable to say out-of-hand that they do not exist. When closing, Lord Cork and Orrery congratulated Lord Clancarty for doing a great service, and "initiating ripples which ...will spread over the surface of the mill pond."

Lord Strabolgi rose to reply for the Government at 10.10 p.m. Not unexpectedly he spoke of the great distances, and the problems they would pose for visitors to this planet. If they did get here in the numbers stated would our radar screens not show them? Why have they not tried to communicate with us? He listed types of misidentifications, spoke of the work of Dr. Condon's Colorado University Commission, and said Lord Gainford's sighting was of a satellite launcher re-entry, and that the New Zealand events were probably due to natural phenomena. He disagreed with Lord Clancarty that M. Galley had said the phenomenon was real, but rather that the phenomena were genuine and reported by responsible people, and that aspects were difficult to explain. Lord Strabolgi insisted there was no cover-up and no security ban. As for telling the people the truth, the truth is simple: the phenomena can usually be explained in terms of natural phenomena, and there is nothing to suggest that UFO phenomena are alien space craft.

The Earl of Clancarty sought leave to withdraw his motion at about 10.40 p.m., as no vote is taken in a debate of this kind.

* * * * *

It will be the view of seasoned ufologists (Lord Cork and Orrery may rest assured we do not like that word any more than he does!) that most of what was said in the House of Lords on the evening of 18 January 1979 was predictable. That is not to say that the debate was not enjoyable; much of it was like a breath of fresh air. The point is that it took place in what is probably the oldest surviving parliamentary institution in the world, and that it may well cause "ripples on the mill pond" – provided there isn't too much pushing and scrambling for advantage by the over-enthusiasts and the cultists.

That something like this could happen is exemplified in a "press release" issued by the Aetherius Society, which claims exultantly that it had briefed Lord Kimberley two days before the debate. It will not be forgotten, however, that this is the group which chanted, cavorted and capered on a West Country hilltop while recharging their magic box with power from the UFOs. This was an item unfortunately added, at the expense of other seriously presented material, to the BBC-TV documentary *Out of this World* (May 1977, and, to the dismay of serious researchers repeated in December 1977 and again in January 1979); an item which had thousands of viewers rolling from their chairs with uncontrollable laughter; an item described by interviewer/producer Hugh Burnett during the course of the programme as a "load of rubbish." Fortunately the nonsense did not show through in Lord Kimberley's speech; again fortunately, the Bishop of Norwich had taken note of the nonsense, we presume, and, other similar manifestations elsewhere, and gave due warning of the alarming effect it could have on our society. (Readers should note too that Dr. Jacques Vallée sounded a similar alarm in his address to the United Nations. We are at one with these warnings.)

Press reaction to the debate was on the whole favourable; it was for them a welcome relief from the hideous strike situation afflicting the country. It is perhaps noteworthy that the *Daily Mail* of Saturday 20 January 1979 included a ridiculous "mickey-take" of an Editorial yet, on another page, published a very serious report concerning a United States court-enforced disclosure by the authorities of details of UFO events near missile sites in 1975 (see World Round-up on page 11 of this issue).

As for the rest of it, we note that Lord Trefgarne pulled out a hoary old chestnut by implying that there are no UFOs because he had never seen one in 2500 hours of flying as a pilot. Why is he not aware that hundreds of other airmen have seen them? Dozens of airmen of our acquaintance have told us of their experiences, many of them privately because they feared to incur the displeasure of their employers and the Ministry.

Then there is the matter of Jodrell Bank. We confess to not knowing the exact set-up there – do they have, in addition to the giant radio telescope, an optical telescope through which things can be *seen*? – but we consider it pointless to imply that there is no phenomenon because the great electronic sky listener has only *observed* possible UFOs, identified as natural phenomena. We suspect the world's largest radio-telescope is largely geared to plumbing the vast depths of the expanding universe, to detecting signals from quasars and the like, and from distant galaxies, indeed from the edge of that remoteness where outer galaxies seem to be travelling away from ours at so great a speed that they are no longer visible – or audible (if that is the word). Agreed the Jodrell Bank dish will also seek signals from sources comfortingly more close at hand, say to the order of millions of miles rather than billions of light years. Even so, how could we expect operators of the great sky searcher to locate UFOs (assuming all the time that they are out there) in all that vastness (in the case of the lost *Sputnik* they must have had some data as to its expected orbit).

What is to the point is that we are concerned with identifying a widely-reported phenomenon that occurs within the inner reaches of Earth's atmosphere, and our abiding interest lies in those close encounters reported within, say 500 yards of the observer, and particularly those reported on or near the ground, sometimes allegedly with occupants. And because some of the observers – or percipients – claim that these occupants have implied in some way or the other that they come from nearby "star systems" or from "distant galaxies" or whatever, and have come to "help mankind solve his problems," it does not mean that these statements

are true. As like as not, whatever it is that controls the phenomenon also enjoys a good belly laugh — and that is a serious thought, a ripple which should cause more than a few to stop and think.

Lord Strabolgi, speaking for the Government, assumed — as did most of the others — that their lordships were talking about an extraterrestrial phenomenon. But this has not been proved to be the case, and he was well aware of that. However, he asked why radar screens do not show UFOs, and our reply to that is that they do: witness the radio declarations by M. Robert Galley on 21 February 1974, and for example, the statement of the commanding officer of the Italian Air Force Base close to Caselle Airport, Turin, in October 1973 (an incident alluded to by the French Minister of Defence). Again, he asked why they have never tried to communicate with us, and to that we reply that we cannot know that they haven't done so, particularly if the means of communication should be a subtle form of control by something that, while it *may* be extraterrestrial, may also be meta-terrestrial or even intra-terrestrial. One can well understand the anxieties of the churchmen; we have long advocated that the study of this phenomenon lies within the disciplines not only of physicists, but also of theologians, historians, anthropologists, classicists and archaeologists.[6]

References

1. *Parliamentary Debates (Hansard)* Vol. 397, No. 23, Thursday 18 Jan. 1979. Available only from Her Majesty's Stationary Office, Kingsway, London WC2, price 40 pence net.
2. According to *The Concise Oxford Dictionary:* intra — in combination = Latin *intra*, on the inside, within. (This led to a little confusion, being "within government" instead of inter governmental.)
3. That was probably so in 1968, but there could be a change of attitude there now (see the article *UFOs debated at the United Nations* in this issue: item on page 10.
4. Turn again to the article *UFOs debated in the United Nations,* in the section relating to Dr. J. Allen Hynek's address to the Committee, for further information on GEPAN.
5. Dr. Jacques Vallée expressed similar concern when speaking at the United Nations. See *UFOs debated at the United Nations,* page 00,
6. See the chapter "Beliefs" in *Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review,* which was taken from the Editorial article in the November-December 1974 issue of FSR.

THE INSTITUTE FOR UFO STUDIES

As was announced in FSR Vol. 24, No. 5, the Institute for UFO Studies has now been formed.

The Constitution of the Institute has been formally agreed, and trustees and officers are being appointed. Steps will be taken to register the Institute as a charity.

Applications for membership are invited from those who consider they have made a useful or significant contribution to the investigation, research or study of the UFO phenomenon. Letters should be addressed to the Secretary, Jonathan M. Caplan, 67 Dorset House, Gloucester Place, London NW. 1, England.

F. W. HOLIDAY

It was with dismay, and great regret, that I learned of the death, on February 23,1979, of F.W. "Ted" Holiday. Ted, who lived near Haverfordwest in that part of Dyfed known formerly as Pembrokeshire, was a journalist; a regular columnist and angling correspondent for a Welsh provincial newspaper. He was also widely known for his investigations of the Loch Ness phenomenon, and was author of an excellent book *The Great Orm of Loch Ness.* About ten years ago Ted Holiday came to the conclusion that there might be a psychic link between monster phenomena and UFOs, and he became a frequent contributor to *Flying Saucer Review.* He also produced another fine book *The Dragon and the Disc*, and latterly concentrated on UFOs, particularly investigations of the wave of reports in West Wales in 1977-78. Readers will particularly remember thought-provoking contributions like "Was 'God' at Aberfan?" (FSR Vol. 18, No. 4), "Exorcism and UFO landing at Loch Ness "(FSR 19/5), "A brief taste of Fairyland" — in which he refers to the onset of the illness, in 1974, which eventually took him from us (FSR 20/6), and more recently "Did Humanoids kill these men?" (FSR 24/1). We offer our expression of sympathy to Ted's mother, Mrs. Holiday, in her sad loss.

C.B.

UFOs DEBATED AT THE UNITED NATIONS

HOW UFOLOGY PASSED THE FIRST OF ITS RECENT MILESTONES

Charles Bowen

UFOLOGY has passed two notable milestones in the space of six short weeks.

On December 8, 1978, in New York, the Special Political Committee of the United Nations at its 47th Meeting of the Thirty-third General Assembly, decided by concensus to recommend to the General Assembly that interested Member States be invited "...to take appropriate steps to co-ordinate, on a national level, scientific research and investigation into extra-terrestrial life, including Unidentified Flying Objects. These States would be asked to inform the Secretary-General of "...the observations, research and evaluation of such activities."

On January 18, 1979, the members of the House of Lords, the Upper House of Parliament at Westminster, London, were engaged in a three-hour debate on Unidentified Flying Objects. The level of the debate was, on the whole, reasonable, but the spokesman for the British Government saw no justification for spending money on UFO research. Be that as it may, UFOs were given a Parliamentary airing, and the debate was widely reported – as is discussed in the Editorial leader of this issue.

At the United Nations, New York

Let us return to America. I am indebted to our correspondent Peter Tomikawa, a Japanese UFO researcher at present living in New York, for sending me all the relevant Press Releases, and other items, relating to the United Nations meeting. Mr. Tomikawa writes that he feels that the General Assembly will automatically adopt the Special Political Committee's decision quite soon, as a matter of formality.

The Press Release of December 8, 1978 (GA/AH/1490) states that "...the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to transmit to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space the statements made by the delegation of Grenada on the item concerning unidentified flying objects which was submitted for the agenda by Grenada. The relevant documentation would also be transmitted to the Outer Space Committee for its consideration." Mr. Tomikawa tells me that he understands that the Outer Space Committee meeting is scheduled to be held in June 1979.

The 35th Meeting of the Thirty-third General Assembly

The decision made on December 8, 1978, stemmed from a draft resolution (document A/SPC/33/L. 20) submitted by the Grenada delegation, proposing that the Secretary-General appoint a group of experts, under the aegis of the Outer Space Committee, to define guidelines for a United Nations study of "the nature and origin of unidentified flying objects and related phenomena." That submission had been made at the 35th Meeting of the Special Political Committee, on November 27, 1978.

On the morning of that day the Prime Minister of Grenada, Sir Eric Gairy, introduced the discussion. He was supported by Mr. Wellington Friday, Grenada's Minister of Education, and three ufological experts – a high-powered team indeed – Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Dr. Jacques Vallée and Lt. Col. Larry Coyne. In an afternoon session Mr. Friday read a letter from former astronaut Gordon Cooper, and Stanton Friedman was also invited to speak.

The addresses and discussion were recorded in U.N. Press Release GA/AH/1478 of November 27 and General Assembly official record A/SPC/33/SR. 35

Sir Eric Gairy introduced the discussion. He said the fact that he was heading his country's delegation on the subject of UFOs was proof of his personal conviction that it was a matter of world-wide importance which warranted serious consideration by the Special Political Committee. He alluded to the (then) recent case of the *abduction* [Sir E. Gairy's description – CB] of the Cessna aircraft (and pilot) in Australia.* This was but one of tens of thousands of incidents everywhere in the globe. He referred to the data in UFOCAT [Dr. D. R. Sanders – CB] as exemplifying the massive and world-wide nature of the phenomenon. Grenada, he said, was pre-occupied with the subject because other countries devoted all their attention to international problems, but put little emphasis on "international matters relating to the earth as one planet." He added that it was presumptuous of us to imagine that we are God's only intelligent beings. Leading scientists and UFO researchers had signed a resolution at Acapulco in April 1977 endorsing and supporting the [original] initiative taken by the Government of Grenada in regard to UFO research, and offering to join them in their effort to bring the matter to the attention of the United Nations. That relationship between Grenada and the scientific community

* An account of this incident, by W. C. Chalker, will be found in *Flying Saucer Review* Volume 24, No. 5.

Photo: Peter Tomikawa

U.N. Press Conference, November 27, 1978. Left to right: Mr.W.Friday, Sir Thomas Gairy, Dr.J.A.Hynek

had given the scientific world new dimensions with regard to UFO research. The fact that several scientists formed part of Grenada's delegation was evidence of his country's determination to bring the UFO phenomenon to the attention of the United Nations.

Sir Eric went on to say that his country was well aware of the different views among Governments, scientists and researchers, and the public in general, regarding the origin, nature and intent of the UFO phenomenon. They were aware too of the concern expressed by Governments regarding the cost of establishing new United Nations organs, but as they had support from many well-respected Governments, his Government had decided to suggest to the committee a new course of action, and to present a very modest draft resolution. Under this a three-man committee would be set up by the Sectretary-General and would work within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The following is the text of the draft resolution:-

"The General Assembly,

"Mindful of its commitment to promote international co-operation in solving international problems,

'Noting the statements made by Grenada at the thirtieth, thirty-first, thirty-second and thirty-third sessions of the General Assembly regarding Unidentified Flying Objects and related phenomena which continue to baffle mankind, and Grenada's appeal to have the United Nations conduct and co-ordinate research into these baffling phenomena, and to disseminate more widely among the nations of the world information and other data gathered and available on the phenomena,

"Aware of the growing interest taken by people of the world in Unidentified Flying Objects and related Phenomena, and also interest in strange happenings in various parts of the world, and recognising the commitment to research into these phenomena demonstrated by certain national Governments, individual scientists, researchers and educational institutions,

"1. Recommends that, in consultation with the appropriate specialized agencies, the United Nations Organizations initiate, conduct and co-ordinate research into the nature and origin of Unidentified Flying Objects and related phenomena;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to transmit to him by 31 May 1979 information and proposals which would facilitate the proposed study;

"3. Further requests the Secretary-General to appoint at the earliest possible date a three-member group of experts under the aegis of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to study information and proposals submitted to the Secretary-General by Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations;

"5. Also decides that the group of experts reports on its work through the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly;

"6. Decides further to include in the Provisional Agenda of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly an item entitled 'Report of the group of experts of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the defining of guidelines for the study of Unidentified Flying Objects and related Phenomena.' "

* * * * *

Mr. Wellington Friday next spoke on behalf of Grenada, talked about the Acapulco congress, and congratulated his Prime Minister for his forthright stand on the matter of research on the UFO phenomenon. He urged him to continue the diplomatic thrust in seeking co-operation among nations to bring about the establishment of a U.N. agency or department for research into UFOs and related phenomena. It was in that context that Grenada had invited scientists, who had participated in the Acapulco congress to make statements in support of the Grenada initiative. He then introduced Dr. Hynek.

* * * * *

Dr. J. Allen Hynek observed that one of the smallest nations on earth had courageously introduced the perplexing subject of UFOs to the United Nations and thus "trod where mightier nations had feared to tread." He said there existed a world-wide phenomenon "so strange and foreign to our daily terrestrial mode of thought" that it was frequently met by ridicule and derision by persons and organisations unacquainted with the facts. He defined

the UFO phenomenon as any aerial or surface sighting, or instrumental recording (e.g. radar, photography, etc.) which remained unexplained by conventional methods, even after competent examination by qualified persons. However he pointed out that, in the popular mind, the UFO phenomenon was associated with the concept of extraterrestrial intelligence, which might yet prove to be correct in some context.

UFO reports interested millions of people and, said Dr. Hynek, they had been assembled from 133 countries. In significant numbers they had been made by highly responsible people — radar experts, astronauts, military and commercial pilots, officials of Governments and scientists, including astronomers. A recent Gallup Poll had shown that 57% of the population of the United States believed UFOs were real.

Granted not all of the tens of thousands of reports were of high quality, but they did include a large number of extremely interesting and provocative accounts of strange events, he added. These events challenged man's conception of the world, and might signal a need for a change in some of those concepts. That point had been brought out by M. Robert Galley, a former French Minister of Defence, in a radio broadcast to the French nation on 21 February 1974. Speaking about the large number of Gendarmerie reports of UFO sightings, M. Galley had stressed the importance of investigating the truly unknown and of keeping an open mind in that regard.

Dr. Hynek went on to describe the most reliable data on UFOs as the so-called "Close encounters of the second kind" — the physical trace cases, of which there were over 1300 currently on record. In these there could be immediate physical effects on either animate or inanimate matter, or on both; physiological effects on humans, animals and plants; interference with electrical systems; disturbed regions on the ground or nearby. All these had been reliably reported.

Dr. Hynek also spoke of the growing community of scientists from many countries who had declared an interest in pursuing the challenge; now there was no longer any question in his mind of the importance of this subject, after many years of study both as scientific consultant to the United States Air Force and, more recently, as an involved scientist.

France had assumed a leading role in the scientific approach to the question of UFOs. The French Gendarmerie had diligently undertaken the invesigation of many UFO reports, and provided material for further study by a scientific group called GEPAN, headed by Dr. Claude Poher, and made up of specialists in physical science, psychology, the social sciences, law and medicine. **The group's work had been reviewed by an independent scientific board from the parent organisation, the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), and the group had been given instructions to proceed on an expanded and well-funded basis** [my emphasis — CB]. He understood that only one of the cases investigated had been found to have a conventional explanation. The remainder had been close encounter cases, in which UFOs had reportedly been sighted within 250 metres of the witness, and two of them had been close encounters of the third kind in which the presence of intelligent beings had been reported. Great care had been taken in the GEPAN investigations, and the evaluation of the psychological factors involved —

Photo copyright: Peter Tomikawa

Press Conference at United Nations, New York, November 27, 1978. Left to right: Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Dr. Jacques Vallée, Lieut - Colonel Lawrence Coyne.

much superior to the degree of care exercised in previous studies in other countries – and it had been concluded that most of the cases involved a material phenomenon that could not be explained as either a natural phenomenon or a human device.

Scientists other than those in France had come to similar conclusions, drawn independently, but many of them were reluctant to express their opinions openly. In many cases they were associated with large and prestigious organisations, both governmental and private, which were either silent or even officially derisive about the UFO phenomenon. So they had to work silently and in private on UFO matters. There were many others who, independently or in small groups, studied the subject with whatever means they had available. What was needed was a mechanism for exchange of ideas and findings. The United Nations was not being asked to conduct research, but merely to provide a means whereby results of investigations could be disseminated between scientists in various countries. Neither financial burden would be involved, nor disruption of the United Nations Organization's many other activities. Data of high potential significance to science and to the world was continually being lost for lack of a means to prevent its loss.

Dr. Hynek closed by saying he had once been openly sceptical, believing that the phenomenon was simply a mental aberration and a public nuisance. It was now his considered opinion that the UFO phenomenon was real and worthy of study. The creation of a mechanism within the United Nations to facilitate the exchange of UFO reports, and studies conducted in member states, would hasten the day when such opinion would be translated into firm scientific knowledge.

* * * * *

Dr. Jacques Vallée was the next to speak.

As he has sent *Flying Saucer Review* a copy of his "Statement on the UFO phenomenon" I am glad to be able to record that statement in full, without need to resort to the Press Releases:

"Mr. Chairman,

"In the process of science it is common for old human ideas to be challenged by new facts. New knowledge is born of this challenge.

"In the process of social development it is common for new knowledge to trigger emotional reactions with far-reaching cultural and political effects. New beliefs are born of this confrontation.

"The frequent reporting of unexplained phenomena in the sky of many countries over the last thirty years presents an opportunity to observe both of these processes.

"In the documents circulated prior to this meeting, and in our preliminary discussions with Mr. Kurt Waldheim and representatives of the Outer Space Affairs Group, the essential facts of the phenomenon have been stated by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, by Dr. Claude Poher, and myself. Accordingly I will limit my remarks to one aspect of the phenomenon which touches directly on the role of your committee.

"To be specific, I would like to call your attention to a new social movement based on the expectation of contact with beings from outer space. This belief, in many ways, is an emotional one. Although the UFO Phenomenon is real and appears to be caused by an unknown physical stimulus, I have so far failed to discover any evidence that it represented the arrival of visitors from outer space.

"Instead it is my conclusion, Mr. Chairman, that this phenomenon has three aspects.

"The first aspect is a physical manifestation that can and should be investigated through already-available scientific equipment. Dr. Claude Poher, in his recently-concluded study sponsored by an agency of the French Government, has now shown the way in this direction. Recently, [1977 – CB] the Spanish armed forces have also released their files on cases that had resisted analysis by their experts. There is no lack of physical data and there is no lack of competent scientists who are willing to examine them with an open mind.

"The second aspect of the UFO Phenomenon is psycho-physiological. Witnesses at the scene exhibit disorientation symptoms, a loss of the sense of time, partial paralysis or loss of voluntary muscle control, auditory and visual hallucinations, eye complaints ranging from conjunctivitis to temporary blindness, massive psychic reactions and longer-term effects such as disturbance of sleep and dream patterns and radical behaviour changes.

"I do not believe it is within the province or the budget of the United Nations to address such effects directly, except where the United Nations Organization can serve its traditional role in disseminating scientific information and facilitating exchanges among scholars.

"It is the third aspect of the UFO phenomenon which deserves your full attention here, Mr. Chairman. This third aspect is the social belief system which has been generated in all the nations represented on this committee by the expectation of space visitors. This belief has been nurtured by the lack of serious attention given to genuine reports of UFOs, and it is creating new religious, cultural and political concepts of which social science has taken little notice.

"I have spent over fifteen years conducting studies of the reports made through official and unofficial channels in France and in the United States. These analyses have been supported by extensive computer statistics. In addition, I have been in frequent communication with scientists in other parts of the world. The conclusions I have reached regarding the social effects of the UFO phenomenon in the cultures I have studied are the following:

"1. The belief in space visitors is independent of the physical reality of the UFO phenomenon. In terms of social science, we might say that something is 'real' if enough people believe in it. The UFO Phenomenon has now reached this point. The question of knowing whether or not UFOs are physically 'real' is becoming secondary in the mind of the public.

"2. The belief in the imminence of UFO "Contact" is an indication of a widening gap between the public and science. We are beginning to pay the price for the negative and prejudiced attitude with which our scientific institutions have treated sincere witnesses of UFO phenomena. Lack of serious, open-minded research in this field has encouraged these witnesses to think that science was incapable of dealing with the phenomena. This attitude has led many people to seek answers outside of the rational pursuit of knowledge to which science is dedicated. Only an open exchange of information on the subject could now correct this dangerous trend.

"3. In the absence of serious, unbiased research on the subject, the belief in the immence of UFO 'Contact' undermines the image of Man as a master of his own destiny. In recent years we have seen many books arguing that the earth had been visited by space travellers in prehistoric times. Although this theory deserves serious study, it is leading many people to suggest that the great achievements of mankind would have been impossible without celestial intervention: the development of agriculture, the mastery of fire and the bases of civilization are credited to so-called 'higher beings.' Not only does this idea contradict many archeological facts; it encourages passive expectation of another visit by friendly space creatures to solve current human problems.

"4. The expectation of contact with space visitors promotes the concept of political unification of our planet. Through the belief in space entities, a strong and beautiful yearning for global peace is expressing itself. The UFO Phenomenon is providing an outside focus for human emotions. Whether this becomes a factor for positive or negative social change will depend on the way in which these emotions are treated and on the seriousness with which the underlying physical phenomenon is investigated. Such is the challenge before this Committee.

"Mr. Chairman, it is not my role to suggest a specific approach to this complex problem. The scientists with whom I am in contact would welcome an opportunity to share their data and their ideas within any structure that could be made available for this purpose.

"All the great nations of the world are represented on this committee. Let us keep in mind that the UFO Phenomenon may represent an even greater reality. It is our choice to treat it as a threat or as an opportunity for human knowledge."

Copyright United Nations/Photo Y. Nagata

November 27, 1978: Lt. Col. Coyne addresses the Assembly

* * * * *

The next speaker was **Lt. Colonel L. Coyne,** who described an incident that occurred on October 18, 1973. It involved a United States Army helicopter, of which he had been in command, and which included three other crew members. The incident occurred near Mansfield, Ohio, during a flight between Columbus, Ohio, and Cleveland, Ohio. This incident has been dealt with by Mrs. Jennie Zeidman in *Flying Saucer Review* Volume 22, No. 4, and with further detail in Volume 23, No. 4, (both are still available) so there is little point in repeating the account here.

* * * * *

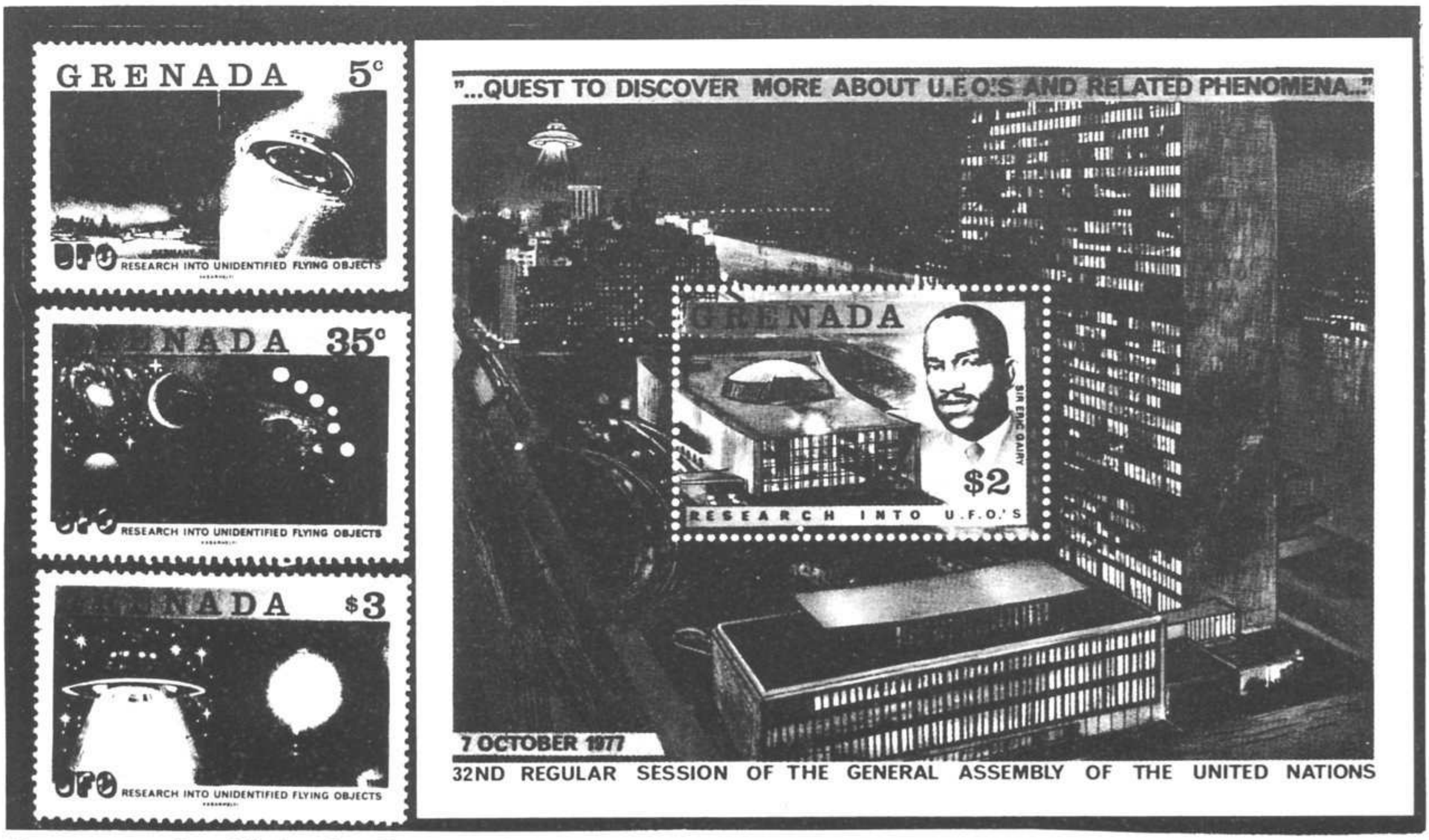
Mr. Friday, of the Grenada delegation now requested a break in the proceedings so that a documentary film, specially prepared for the Committee, could be shown. The Committee agreed, and Dr. Hynek gave the narration.

The documentary film included well-known film clips and still photographs: the Montana and Tremonton, Utah, films; the ATV film shot by a camera crew on location near Banbury in 1971; a Japanese broadcasting company film shot inside a car; a suspect film from West Germany; photographs taken at McMinnville, Oregon, and Rouen, France; the Lubbock Lights photograph; the Heflin pictures; surface markings in Queensland, Australia, and at Delphos, Kansas; the Trinidade Island photographs of 1958, and many other examples.

In the afternoon session, which concluded the General Debate on UFOs, Mr. Wellington Friday read a letter from former astronaut Gordon Cooper, who stated that he believed extraterrestrial vehicles and their crews were visiting this planet from other planets. He said he himself had spent two days in 1951 [In a U.S.A.F. plane – CB] observing UFOs of different sizes flying in fighter formation, generally from east to west over Europe.

Mr. Stanton Friedman stated that after 20 years of study, he believed that there was overwhelming evidence to suggest that the planet was being visited by intelligently controlled extraterrestrial vehicles. He elaborated at some length on that belief.

After a request by Liberia that the statements of the Grenada delegation should be reproduced *in extenso,* and a query by the United Kingdom representative about the cost of doing that – she was reassured that it was part of the work of the General Assembly, and there would be no financial implications – the meeting rose.



Revenue, and publicity for Grenada, from UFOs? Postage stamp issue (the S2 value is set inside an adhesive-backed picture of the United Nations Building, New York) to commemorate Grenada's 1977 proposal to the General Assembly. We wonder what Messrs Hynek and Vallēe thought of some of the illustrations?

Comment

If the General Assembly should adopt the recommendation by the Special Political Committee, to the effect that Member States be invited to take steps to co-ordinate scientific research into UFOs, then ufology indeed will have reached a memorable milestone.

It will be said by the "professional" debunkers: "Ah, but the General Assembly is but a talking shop for the Third World countries." But that is not the point. The little country, Grenada, thanks to the personal interest of its Prime Minister, and others in his government — and thanks, no doubt, to the side-attraction of publicising their country — obtained the support of a high-powered team, among them scientists who had been involved with the French official project on UFO research. It was there that the Third World was left behind. Ufology was presented responsibly in First World terms — and the responsible approach will be noted for all time in the record — and the machinery will be set up whereby valuable co-operation could take place.

Perhaps it is too soon to expect that this could lead to a speedy reduction of the harassments, tensions and even penalties (seen and unseen) suffered by scientists, technicians, civil servants and ordinary folk who, while they may possess an abiding interest in the subject, and a deep urge to do research therein, are forced to keep quiet or suffer the consequences.

If the recommendation is adopted, two questions of great interest remain. First, who will be the three appointed experts and, secondly, and more important, which Member States are likely to participate? [France? Possibly, for she has the most advanced and high-level official investigating team, and has made a real advance. Italy? She has a system whereby the Carabinieri investigate reports officially and do *not* seem to be loathe to discuss them with the public in the form of amateur UFO investigators. Spain? We know that the Spanish Army for several years has been involved in the collection and study of reports — details of some of which have been released and published in this journal.

As for Britain, it would seem that the answer would be a very firm "no" (see Lord Strabolgi's recent pronouncement in the House of Lords debate). Even if there were a desire to become involved, anything that required expenditure, such as the setting up or enlarging of Civil Service departments would, in these chaotic times, be ruled out. I expect much the same goes for the United States on the official level, happy to continue to abide by the recommendations of the Condon Committee in 1969, although I am well aware that American genius for organising things could well find an unofficial way round that obstacle.

The U.S.S.R? the FSR team know, from personal experience that, officially, at the science centre at Novosibirsk, someone is beavering away, sending cards to people around the world trying to glean

information on UFO reports and research ideas. We at FSR have received them – and correspondence from other interested individuals, who have sent reports to us. Robert Chapman of the *Sunday Express* tells us he has received a card too, in his case a request for a copy of his book, and a local newspaper in Kent has been asked for details of a report (see *Sunday Express* of 21 January 1979, page 7), and there have been a number of other recipients. So, any chance to collect new material and ideas could well be attractive to them. Whether or not it would be on an exchange basis is another question.

One last thing has to be said at this stage, and that is that Drs Hynek, Vallée and Poher, and Lt. Colonel Coyne and the rest, seem to have done a very good job.

World round-up *of news and comment about recent sightings*

United States of America

America's leaders forced to own up about UFOs.

We read with amazement on page 3 of the *Daily Mail* of January 20, 1979, the following item which appeared under the signature of *Simon Winchester,* the newspaper's correspondent in Washington, D.C.; amazement in view of the *Mail's* ridiculous Editorial on page 6 of the same issue (see page 3 of this issue of FSR):

"The Pentagon's bland response to flying saucer reports was always the same: It's nothing. Yet all the while they were compiling hundreds of secret files on sightings.

"And yesterday, America's military leaders were forced to admit that UFOs had spied on many of their nuclear missile bases and bomb stores during a fortnight in 1975.

"No fewer than 900 pages of official records have been prised out of them by a private organisation, the Ground Saucer Watch, of Pheonix, Arizona, who took their case to court last summer.

"They reveal that experts are at a loss to explain the rash of sightings over nuclear bases in the first two weeks of November 1975.

"The sites in Maine, Michigan and Montana – where there are several squadrons of Minuteman missiles and atom bomb storage compounds – were all 'visited'.

"At Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, a captain Thomas O'Brien reported seeing an aircraft 'resembling a helicopter' approaching the underground weapons silo.

"It had two red and two white lights on the front, a white light on the bottom and another on the rear. The object hovered for a minute or so before flying off soundlessly, said the report.

"Military crews at two nearby sites also reported seeing 'moving lights' in the air on the same evening.

"The 'activity' logs' kept by commanders of the North American Air Defence Command show that during that period witnesses at another launch site saw an object hovering over the missile silo 'issuing a black object from it, tubular in shape'.

"The revelations follow Thursday's warning to the House of Lords by the Earl of Clancarty, chairman of the UFO movement Contact, that it is time people were told the truth."

Credit: **John M. Lade**

> Having read the foregoing, readers might care to refer to the World Round-up item in FSR Volume 23, No. 5: "CIA sued over UFOs"

Italy

The following item from the *Birmingham Evening Mail* of November 30, 1978, was from John Ashton, that newspaper's correspondent in Rome –

"The fish markets along 60 miles of Italy's Adriatic coast are closed, with fishermen demanding naval or coastguard escorts to cross the offshore waters which have seen mysterious and terrifying events for the past six weeks.

"It all began when the bodies of two fishermen were discovered beside their capsized, but intact, boat. A subsequent autopsy revealed there was no water in their lungs and that their deaths could be attributed to no known causes. A riddle has kept medical experts and scientists alert ever since: hair-thin lines, almost invisible across their chests.

"These deaths were followed by a series of eerie sightings: 60 ft-high columns of foaming water burst from the otherwise glassy sea beside the boats.

"Red lights rocket skywards up to 200 ft. White "globes of fire" travel at high speed underwater.

"Unidentified echoes on radar that followed trawlers back to port finally broke the fishermen's nerves.

"Despite an unusual spate of UFO sightings, discarded as illusion, no explanation has been found for the strange stirrings in the sea."

Credit: **Gordon Creighton**

Israel

Police alert after Mount of Olives sighting

The Guardian of January 5, 1979, the following interesting report, a UPI item from Tel Aviv, –

"Israelis yesterday reported a spate of unidentified flying objects – sightings of brightly lit objects hovering, zigzagging, or streaking through the skies over the Holy Land from Haifa to Jerusalem.

"But the Air Force said that nothing had shown up on their radar screens. And police, some of whom sighted UFOs, refused to comment on the report.

"The sightings occurred only days after widespread reports of UFOs in New Zealand. Police in Jerusalem alerted all mobile units after three mysterious objects were seen hovering above the city at a high altitude.

"One policeman told the newspaper, Ha'aretz, that he drove up to the Mount of Olives to get a better look. He said: 'I saw a startling thing: three objects with irregular colours of red, blue, and purple – like a sparkling diamond in the sun. They moved forwards as they went up and down, like an electro cardiogram reading. The third moved north and south. The colours flashed like the blue light on top of a police car.'

"Earlier, a member of the staff

at the Hilton Hotel said he saw a blinding light in the area.

"And in Haifa, on the coast north-west of Jerusalem, Karol Braunstein, 51, said he saw something quite different while walking his dog at night. He said he saw a red globe about 10 times bigger than a basket-ball shoot across the sky faster than a jet fighter. 'It moved from north to south for a few seconds without a noise.' Mr. Braunstein said. 'Then, the ball disappeared.' "

Republic of South Africa
Landing with occupants, near Johannesburg

Again, from *The Guardian* of January 5, 1979, we learn that in the Krugersdorp area, –

"... a South African woman and her child said they saw half-dozen 'beings' standing in front of a brightly coloured craft illuminated with pink lights on a lonely country road.

"Mrs. Megan Quezet, a former nurse, and her 12-year-old son, Andre, said the creatures tried to speak to her, but they jumped into their craft and flew away after she became excited and shouted.

"The sighting, at Mindalore, about 30 miles north-west of Johannesburg, was the first reported in South Africa this year. Police would not comment."

Credit: **John M. Lade**

Norway
Bergen men claim radio-contact with UFO

The newspaper *Morgenavisen* of September 9, 1978, carried a report of an unusual claim regarding a UFO contact. The article was initialled "HHS" and the translation from the Norwegian was by **Gerda Jensen**, and **Roma Browne:**

"On Friday night three private radio-hams, at different places, claimed to have made radio contact with a UFO which was over the town of Bergen, and in the morning had disappeared behind clouds. A signal, recorded during the UFO visit in 1969, was sent out and immediately similar signals were returned.

"For the first time mankind has had radio contact with a UFO. The night of 7th September, 1978, and continuing towards mid-morning, Jan Erik Søreide, Frank Haug and some others had contact with a UFO which was over Bergen. Contact was said to have been established when Søreide sent out some signals which somebody else had taken on a cassette in 1969 – two or three minutes after the signals were sent out similar signals were returned with such strength that they blocked all other sounds. But even then they were so accurately directed that a walkie-talkie a hundred metres away heard nothing.

"People who are interested in sending out their own radio messages, often do it during the night because it is quiet then. Frank Haug discovered a UFO round about 2.00 a.m. over Isdalen, and mentioned it to the others who were also on the air. They saw it and they also heard a sound similar to that which an aircraft makes just before landing. Frank Haug asked Søreide to send out all the signals which he had on his cassette. The UFO must have recognised the sound as the tribal yell, because it sent similar signals back. Haug received on the cassette those signals which Søreide had sent out and also got an answer. Those signals which came back, Jan Erik did not hear.

"The three private radio-hams, Soreide on Landås, Haug on Nygårdshoyden and another on Nordnes, talked together and they all heard the signals. But only one at a time heard them! 'I have had a walkie-talkie for eleven years, but I have never heard anything like it,' said Jan Erik Søreide. It is quite out of the question that anyone could have sent up signals, because there is no apparatus which is so finely directed that it can go through one place on all the channels and not give any reaction on an apparatus 100 metres away. During the day there were 'industrial sounds' on the air, but not in the night. Besides, such noise is found everywhere; it does not choose a single apparatus at a time.

"We talked with Søreide at 9.45 a.m. on the Friday, and asked if there was still contact? – 'I will listen,' he said. And soon after we heard, through the telephone, a humming sound which rose to a higher pitch so that it was almost like a morse-signal. It lasted less than a minute and then suddenly disappeared. While it lasted it came through so strongly that Jan Erik Søreide's walkie-talkie was blocked.

"Frank Haug looked at the UFO through binoculars and said it looked the size of a small hand-ball. Round it there was a shining ring which moved and changed colour. The light was not equally strong the whole time, it pulsated and became strongest when the UFO moved, and at the same time the sound also increased.

"Søreide saw the light over Fløyfjellet and noticed that it went towards Isdalen. It was discovered about 2 a.m., but disappeared behind clouds which came up between 4 and 5 a.m.; but as late as 9.45 a.m. it continued to send signals. The light was so strong, said Haug, it was painful to look at. It was not very high up – 1500 metres perhaps – as the light got stronger, the sound got stronger.

"Søreide and Haug came up to this newspaper's office and they had their walkie-talkie and cassette-player with them. Many of us heard the signals which were sent and the signals which were returned. The sound was in a way like the sound of gurgling, rising to a high-pitched sound, but with no regular rhythm. It was as if they were known communication signals. 'Unfortunately no one had a camera to hand,' said Søreide, 'but even then we were lucky because it is not every night that one sees a UFO and gets space signals, and has the equipment on hand to pick up the answers.'

"A light in the sky can be created by man, but as far as I know there is no radio equipment which can retain signals in such concentrated beams that they are not heared on equipment near-by.

"When the big UFO-wave swept the country I got a visit here from a man who received unknown signals on his cassette-player. They reminded me of those signals we have just been hearing about. They have been played at different speeds but until now no experts have managed to interpret them. When one has the signal which is sent, and the answer, then perhaps one can get a bit farther. We must remind ourselves that UFO stands for Unidentified Flying Object. Both the sounds and the lights are unidentified and we cannot believe that human beings are behind it. But even then we can hardly believe our own ears.

"If no one can find an earthly explanation for this phenomenon, is it possible that Bergen has had a close encounter of the second kind?"

Credit: **Eva Erichsen** of Bergen, Norway.

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

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BUFORA – The British UFO Research Association – has been organising annual conferences and monthly lectures since its formation in 1962. In recent years, its two-day national research and investigation conferences have received considerable acclaim.

CONTACT – Contact International – was founded by Lord Clancarty (a founder and editor of FSR) in 1967, and has members in 34 countries. The UK Branch is a national UFO research and investigation society in its own right and will co-host the Congress with BUFORA.

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THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND UFOs

SIGNS OF A NEW ATTITUDE FOLLOWING UNEASY STEPS FORWARD

Roberto Pinotti

Dr. Pinotti, who here makes a welcome return to our pages, is Vice-President of the Italian National UFO Research Centre (C.U.N.), which has its Headquarters at Via Vignola 3, 20136, Milano. Dr. Pinotti lives in Firenze (Florence).

AS Gordon Creighton has reported in FSR,[1] three helicopters of the Italian Army's Light Aircraft Corps (Aviazione Leggera Esercito) had a close sighting of an "orange circle" over the military airfield at Elmas (Cagliari) on the Italian island of Sardinia on October 27, 1977.

The Commandant of the Elmas Air Force Base, Colonel Mario D'Angelo, sent a detailed report to the Italian Minister of Defence, and as a result we now have details of the first *official* military investigation which the Italian authorities admit to ever having made into a UFO sighting by military pilots.

I give below a résumé of what has happened in this case, following on from what Mr. Creighton has already reported.[2]

The case received wide publicity from the Italian media, but the reaction of the Ministry of Defence was at first one of total silence about the affair.

In an attempt to break through the screen of silence, our research group, C.U.N. (Italy's most important and most authoritative group) made a thorough enquiry of our own into the case, and we managed to secure a number of confidential reports on it which showed clearly that the business was very mysterious and certainly did not involve an aircraft.

We then launched a vigorous campaign, writing letters to numerous newspapers, urging the Minister to make an official statement, and these letters were all published.

Finally, on January 5, 1978, the Italian Defence Department put out an *ad hoc* press release in an attempt "...to answer the citizens who had been writing to the press." This press release stated that the UFO had been identified as "an aircraft operating over Sardinia in the course of an ordinary flight mission," but which the Air Force Personnel at Elmas had been unable to identify at the time "owing to particular weather conditions during twilight."

This vague and quite ridiculous statement, totally disavowing the earlier military reports, was promptly refuted by us in a letter which we (C.U.N.) sent to the Minister of Defence. In this letter we reminded him of the evidence that had already been given by the various eyewitnesses at the Elmas Air Force Base, and we made a request for a serious, confidential exchange of information and data with the Ministry on the Elmas case, and also on the UFO problem as a whole.

The remarkable result of all this was that in due course we received from the Ministry of Defence, on March 31, 1978, a file containing details of six un-classified UFO sightings by Italian military personnel during the year 1977. These included the Elmas case, plus two repetitions which had taken place at Elmas on November 2 and November 5, 1977, *neither of which had been revealed until then.* In both these repeater cases, the report of the sighting came from the personnel of the control-tower at the Elmas Air Force Base. Moreover, in the case of the sighting on November 2, the eyewitnesses also included Italian Air Force pilots who were flying over the area at the time and the pilots of two German Air Force F104G jet interceptor aircraft from the German Forces detailed for operation at the NATO Base on the Island of Sardinia.

In all three cases at Elmas, the eyewitnesses had described the UFO as a circular or elliptical "ball of fire" flying at tremendous speed.

When the Air Ministry released these six cases to us at C.U.N., the issuing official in the Ministry misunderstood his instructions, and, instead of sending the material only to C.U.N. (as established and authoritative National Civilian UFO Research Group of Italy) he also sent a copy of it to another small research group, CNIFAA, who were once part of C.U.N. but broke away from us in 1973. They are doing good work and still collaborate with us closely. But the official also sent a copy to a third group which employs the resounding title of *International Centre for Study and Research on UFOs* – but only consists of two teen-agers. The two teen-agers passed the material, plus the Ministry's covering letter, to the press, with the result that before long, *IL Lavoro*, a socialist newspaper published in Genoa, published the whole story and poked fun at the Air Ministry for having "a couple of teen-agers as its UFO consultants."

This unfortunate turn of events caused the personnel of the Ministry of Defence to take affright and

try to back-pedal. So they started to try to belittle the whole affair of the Elmas sightings. In an interview with journalists, a Ministry spokesman explained that there is no secrecy whatsoever in Italy about UFO sightings and UFO reports, and that such trifling "journalistic events" are quite unimportant and are unclassified. (Ariticle in newspaper *La Nazione* of May 27, 1978.)

Clearly the whole affair had been a source of much embarrassment all round, and before long the Air Force seemed to feel it necessary to justify their attitude over the Elmas case and other cases. So, on May 27, 1978, the Air Force issued a statement, through the ANSA Press Agency, regarding a UFO sighting which had occurred on March 9, with multiple witnesses. This statement made it clear that, while the Air Force had no theories as to what the object might have been (witnesses had variously described it as red or green, and they included the crews of four foreign airliners and two Italian military aircraft), at least it was definitely no conventional aeroplane and was definitely very mysterious.

But here again, something odd occurred, making it look as though some sort of censorship of UFO reports was indeed in operation. For, although it had been released to the press, this Air Force handout only got published in two newspapers – and even in those it was in a mutilated form which misrepresented its meaning. We at C.U.N. were able to secure a copy of the full text of the release from the ANSA Press Agency.

This curious chapter of comedies and errors and imbroglios ended with our writing again to the Ministry of Defence and emphasising that it had all come about through the irresponsible behaviour of their personnel, and requesting them to act more responsibly in future and to release UFO reports only to oursêlves as the established Centre.

The important results of all this are very clear. The Italian Ministry of Defence has begun to show a change of attitude, and this follows upon the signs of similar changes by both the French and the Spanish authorities. This seems to indicate that, after years of a "policy of silence" – imposed by the USA and USSR[3] in collaboration – UFO investigation in the countries of Europe is now destined to play an important role, and we at C.U.N. are happy to be playing out part in these developments and glad to see that our contribution to the general cause of UFO research has been useful, as these developments indicate.

When Dr. Hynek was here in Italy recently, we took the opportunity to give him, for his Center, a copy of the complete file received by us from the Italian Air Ministry.

And, in conclusion, I would like to emphasise that the photostat reports on the six cases sent to us by the Air Ministry are *on the standard Italian Air Ministry's UFO reporting form, which had never been revealed before.* Its title in Italian is: *Relazione*

(Concluded on page 18)

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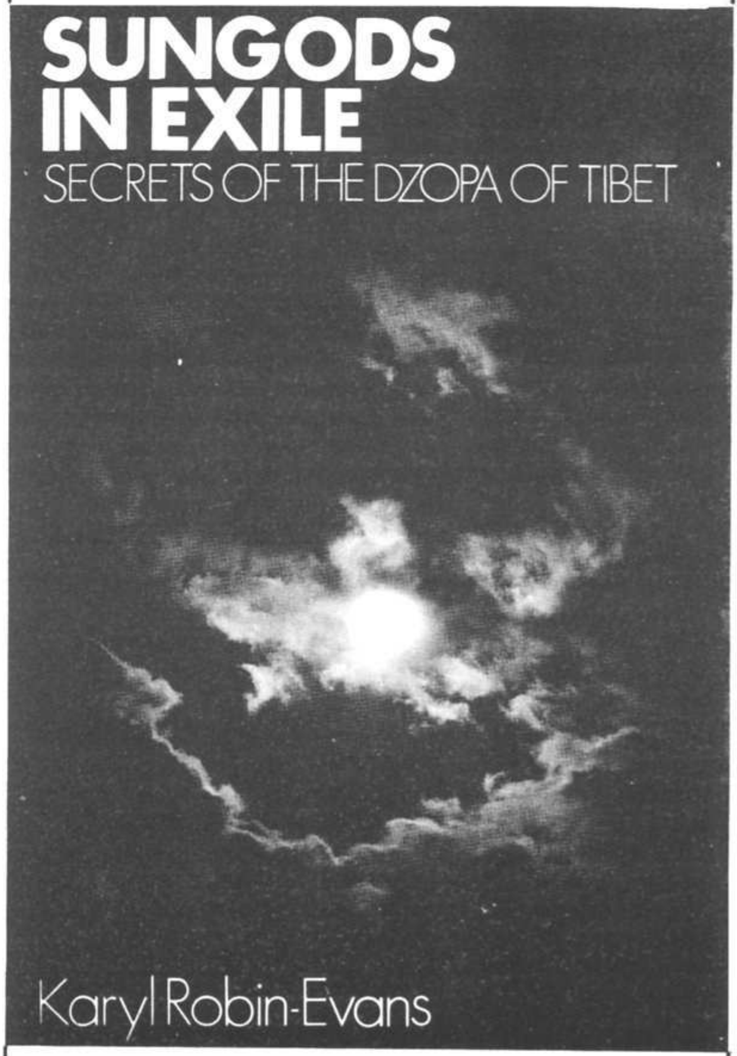

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AN EERIE HUMANOID IN SAITAMA

ALARMING EXPERIENCE OF JAPANESE RADIO "HAM"

Jun-Ichi Takanashi

Our contributor, whom we welcome once again to the pages of Flying Saucer Review, is Chairman of the Modern Space Flight Association of Osaka, Japan.

ONE of the most popular television night programmes in Japan is "11 PM" (yes, it is pronounced literally in English "Eleven P.M") which is presented each night from Monday to Friday, from 11.15 p.m. to 0.25 a.m. From time to time this programme features UFOs, the paranormal and the occult. On November 6, 1978, "11 PM" featured an account of an eerie encounter with a weird humanoid on the top of a mountain near Sayama City, which is in Saitama Prefecture, Japan. The unfortunate witness is a Mr. Hideichi Amano (29) who is an amateur radio operator, and the date of the incident was October 3, 1978.

The use of the description "unfortunate" will be appreciated as the account unfolds.

For his livelihood Mr. Amano runs a snack bar called "Juri" after his baby daughter, and on the night of October 3 had driven in his mobile unit car to the top of a mountain near Sayama City so that he could get unobstructed transmission and reception of radio waves while communicating with his younger brother who lives far away in another part of Japan, in Yamanashi Prefecture. The conversation began at about 8.30 p.m., and after they had finished, Mr. Amano chatted around with a few of his local "ham" friends before he decided – as he had two-year-old Juri with him – that it was time to go back down the mountain. It was at that point that the interior of the car became very bright.

The surprised Mr. Amano turned swiftly to look at the back seats, above which he had fixed a fluorescent light to replace the normal car interior light. The interior was illuminated by a brightness tens of times more intense than he normally had from the flourescent light. Puzzled, he stuck his head out of the side window and tried to locate the source of the light. He was flabbergasted to find that the ultra bright light was restricted to the interior only of the car, and that *no light was leaking out from the car windows!*

Turning his head back inside the car he was aghast to find that young Juri, who moments before had been standing on the driver's seat beside him, was now lying on the seat foaming at the mouth.

At almost the same instant he became aware of a strange, round orange-coloured light illuminating the area of his stomach. Numbly he looked back along the path of the beam which was causing this; it was coming through the windscreen from a point in the dark night sky. It was at the moment he made this discovery that he sensed a metallic object being pressed against his right temple. The pressure increased and in a state of mounting fear he looked sideways and saw a weird, unearthly creature standing there! A pipe-like device was projecting from its mouth, and it was this that was pressing against his head, communicating something incessantly to his brain by way of voiceless high-pitched noises which sounded for all the world like a high-speed play back of a recorded tape.

The humanoid

The eerie creature's face was round, but there appeared to be no neck. There was a depression on the forehead in the shape of a triangle, and the creature's ears were big and sharply pointed on the upper edges. It had two eyes, very small and motionless, which were glowing in a bluish-white like miniature lamps, while its mouth which was either projecting into a pipe, or holding the pipe (which was pressed against his temple), was more or less obscured from him as he strained to see sideways. He could see no sign of a nose in the creature's face.

Shocked and terrified, Mr. Amano wanted to flee from the place but when he tried to start the car the engine did not respond properly, and he found the headlights did not come on when he applied the switch. All the time the crazy "space message" continued to flow into his brain and he was immoblilized, sensing all the time that his brain was gradually becoming more and more vague.

After an estimated four or five minutes of this continuing state of affairs, the figure of the creature began to dim out gradually until it had vanished; the round orange light on his stomach disappeared while the fluorescent interior light also returned to its normal brightness. Then, suddenly, all the things he had switched on began to work: the headlights came on, the car radio and stereo began to play. (Later Mr. Amano's watch was found to have stopped at 9.37 p.m.)

The witness, Mr. Hideichi Amano, as he appeared on Japanese television

Flight to safety

Realising that things had returned to normal from the frightful situation that had pertained, Mr. Amano tried the starter again and, finding the engine now also performing normally, he drove away at once, frantically descending the mountain road. In retrospect he recalls that he drove from the place at top speed without even stopping to think about the condition of his little daughter until he reached the foothills. It was here that Juri stood up and said: "I want a drink of water, papa!"

As he continued his journey home the witness wondered whether or not he should report his experience to the police. In the end he decided to do so but, as he feared, they did not believe his story. and they made fun of him. So he drove on home and, having handed his daughter, who was now sleeping, to his wife — still serving in the snack bar — he crept into his bed complaining of a severe headache.

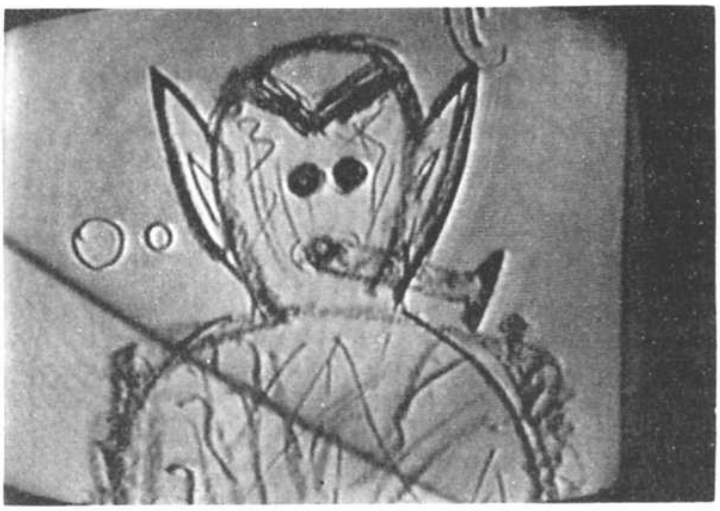
Television takes a hand

Having got wind of the Sayama incident, television researchers got to work, and they soon had Mr. Hideichi Amano's permission to put him in the hands of a professional hypnotist, Mr. Akio Moribe. Their purpose was to ascertain the validity of the occurrence, and to delve further into Mr. Amano's memory.

During the first period of regression, which was video-taped, and shown during the programme on the TV screens, many things hidden in his memory were said to have been retrieved. The most sensational of these was that he remembered having been asked by the creature to return to the same spot on the mountain top so that they could meet again. The date of the proposed return meeting was deleted, and so not mentioned in the programme. Thanks to the omission the hordes of the curious would not flock to the place to spoil the meeting. However, viewers were told that if the meeting proved to be successful it would be shown in another programme in the series.

Towards the end of the first hypnotic session another seemingly important fact came to light. Pressed hard for more information by the hypnotist, Mr. Amano uttered a word which could be interpreted as "rosary," whereupon the experimenters inferred that although he did not remember it consciously, he had been given a glass rosary by the humanoid being, and although it was still kept hidden by him, unconsciously, about his person, when the day of the meeting came the being would return in front of the witness when he "rang" the rosary.

This was interesting information, but I for one doubt very much its authenticity because the hypnotist's insistence for more information was far too severe. I suspect the witness may have been forced to create this idea unconsciously. Furthermore I did not believe the creature would return again on the designated date, as I was afraid this may also have been a concoction of the witness's romantic mind. Anyway, the witness said at the end of the session that although he did not remember what he said during the period of regression, he saw a "bracelet" instead of a "rosary" during the half-conscious period at the termination of the hypnotic interrogation. So the TV crew decided that the item he was given was



The Humanoid, as drawn by Mr. Amano for the television programme

some kind of crystalline bracelet, that it was hidden somewhere about him — although he could not remember where — and when, ultimately, he did remember, he would ring it, or vibrate it, on the appointed day, and the humanoid would return and reveal further information to him. The TV crew would be secreted near the spot, and would record the encounter on video tape to show the viewers. Although I suspect their enthusiastic plan will meet with no success, I still think the originally reported encounter is perhaps the strangest ever to have taken place in Japan.

Personal investigation

After the television show, and following repeated long-distance phone calls which I made to him, I met Mr. Amano in his house and, together with one

of our most able investigators, interviewed him on November 15, 1978. Many interesting details came to light during our conversation. (One of these was the date of the proposed return meeting which Mr. Amano gave to me in confidence and which I am bound not to reveal for the present.) Based on these details, the incident now has more of the "feel" of authenticity as far as I am concerned. I propose to discuss the possibilities (at least four hypotheses), and full details of the incident which were revealed to me, in may follow-up report.

THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND UFOS *(Continued from page 15).*

su Avvistamento di Oggetto Volante non Identificato (UFO Sighting Report.). C.U.N. have long been aware, unofficially, of the existence of this standard report form, because of our off-the-record and unofficial contact over the years with the Air Force and Air Ministry, but this is the first time that it has been made available to us.

It has a total of 27 questions for the UFO percipient to answer.

Notes by Gordon Creighton

1. See FSR, Vol. 24, No. 1. *A Problem for the Italian Minister of Defence?*
2. Dr. Pinotti's official text was written by him in English. I appologise to him for having edited it and re-arranged it here and there.
3. And even from the USSR we have recently been advised of an extremely significant change, which will be reported in FSR in due course.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

To see, and not to hear?

Dear Mr. Bowen,— I am writing concerning the article *Low-Level UFO at Mytchett* (FSR volume 24, No. 1), since I feel that the object seen in fact has a straightforward explanation.

The UFO was seen by two teenage boys and described as a large object with two "headlights" at the front and flashing red lights underneath. The shape was never accurately described, but their illustration shows some type of elevator at the rear, and a row of apparent windows along one side.

I feel that it is highly probable that the UFO was simply an aircraft, since I saw an aircraft recently which gave an identical appearance. It was a blustery and overcast night with low clouds, and the aircraft was flying very low. Two very bright white lights located on the wings, and facing forwards, were reflected off the clouds and gave the appearance of two searchlights, while underneath were flashing red lights. The aircraft's tailplane could just be dimly seen at the rear, and along the side were the windows. Since the aircraft was partially flying through cloud it's lights were reflected off them, which would account for the boys' description of the object "... glowing with a misty light as though producing terrific heat." The only difference in my sighting was that I could definitely hear it was an aircraft. However the report mentions that it was a windy and blustery night, so it is not inconceivable that this muffled and distorted the sound.

At first sight my aircraft also looked very weird and spectacular, and I think it highly probable that two running boys might get over excited and exaggerate the lowness of the object. The fact that the object later seemed stationary could be explained by it approaching or receding directly from the witnesses.

I also feel that this report was given undue attention because of a coincidental similarity with an object seen in 1974. These cases should however be judged on their individual merits.

Of course my explanation falls flat if the sky on January 11, 1978, was clear and cloudless, so it is a pity that Omar Fowler does not state whether the sky was overcast.

Yours sincerley
K. Hodson
46, Gainsborough Gardens,
Edgware,
Middlesex.
Jan. 9, 1979.

I live in a district in Surrey about half-an-hour's drive from London Airport (Heathrow) and some of the flight path s are very close to us. Accordingly I have experience of every kind of civil aircraft from Vanguards and BAC 111s to Concorde and Boeing 747s flying overhead (not to mention helicopters from Farnborough to Cessnas and the like from Chobham). Naturally they come in all kinds of weather, including "windy and blustery" conditions, and gales whistling through the trees that surround us. I've seen many a plane go by, climbing away (or applying reverse thrust if going the other way!) with landing lights probing the night sky like searchlights, navigation lights flashing, and window ports clearly glowing.

When I read Omar Fowler's item it occurred to me that the lads might have seen a big jet for, after all, Mytchett is close to Farnborough, and not all that far from here, but I dismissed this idea in view of my own experience. For there is no way they could not have heard a plane as close as they described it, storm or no storm! – EDITOR

Pilots and sky objects

Dear Sir,—The recent sighting of a UFO in the Severn Estuary and South Wales area, reported I believe by the Ministry of Defence as probably the burning up on re-entry of part of a Russian rocket, was witnessed at close range from the flight deck of a civil airliner. A discussion took place between the pilots and the radar controller for the sector, in which the controller stated he had no knowledge of another aircraft in the vicinity, also no return on his screen although this latter point is quite probable with modern radar as not all targets are necessarily painted on the screen. The A.T.C.C controller also stated that a ground sighting had been made in Chepstow. A UFO report was filed.

The details are as follows:-

"New Year's Eve 1978, time 1903Z. Sighting time approximately 2 minutes. Position 10 miles south of Brecon VOR heading north on Amber 25 – an airway running North/South, height 31,000 ft. object appeared to

be about 5,000 ft. above (a pure guess as size unknown) and flying *level.*

"Initial sighting was a bright white light at first, thought to be landing lights, and the aircraft landing lights were shown in response (normal practice these days) and, shortly after, the light which the pilots thought was an aircraft heading south, moved east (an apparent turn possibly only if you visualize the lights pointing forward) and the light developed a tail described as a lit contrail appearance tapering to a point and some ten diameters as long as main light width. As light moved from left to right from a 12 o'clock position to a 2.30 to 3 o'clock position it appeared to become four separate lights, thus, $_{o}{}^{o\,o}{}_{o}$"

There is little doubt it was not space junk re-entering, although the fact that the Ministry made a statement is enlightening, as they could have remained silent. There are military aircraft in use which could be moving this fast in this area (estimated speed 1,500 miles/hr. plus) but unless in error, would not normally show lights. Tail could be reheat, and four lights could be engines seen from rear. However, until the world stops playing at war all sightings will be hushed up.

Regarding sightings, scientis. recently stated that although pilots and other professionals are skilled in their own fields, they know little about astronomical bodies, balloons, etc., and could be misled. This is not fact as many of us are very interested in astronomy, astro-physics etc. and all of us see more balloons, meteorites, etc. in a year than most of the theorists see in a lifetime. There is no doubt that Venus, Jupiter and the odd comet, especially when low in the sky, can mislead but there is usually an interested amateur around who knows where Venus etc. should be. Besides, it should not prove impossible to orientate photos or film and video tapes taken and, with a fairly accurate time, have a pretty good idea if Venus etc. is the culprit.

Yours faithfully
D. C. Johns,
St. Ives,
Cambridgeshire
January 9, 1979.

[The name of the airline, and the type of aircraft, have been withheld at the writer's request — EDITOR]

Weird explanations

Dear Mr. Bowen,— Let me say that I enjoy reading FSR tremendously, especially the Mail Bag. One point that irritates me a little, though, is to see all the weird and wonderful explanations of UFOs in that feature. If it's not demonic powers taking over the human race, then it's extradimensional intelligences ruling us (J. H. Kaneko's letter FSR 24/3. I do believe this person has got a bit mixed up with the overself that exists in a higher dimension and has nothing to do with UFOs as such).

Please tell my why everyone believes that every UFO is either this, that or the other? Do they all have to be of one source? Why can't people accept the fact that other people live on worlds just like us, and they probably have families, and worries, and long to get out of their rat race too. These beings may also have a desire to "reach for the stars" as we do, only they have succeeded. Why does everyone assume that there must be some mystical and power-seeking reason behind them?

Of course not all UFOs are of the same type so some probably do have these reasons, but please don't assume that they are all one and the same thing. After all, do all Chinamen come from China?

Yours sincerley
Tricia Mooney (Mrs.)

[They're bound to be **something,** *and while we do not know what they are, poeple are bound to speculate. It is up to the reader to decide whether the speculations are wild or not — which is what Mrs. Mooney seems to have done — EDITOR]*

CE III K again

Dear Sir,— I am writing in response to a letter published in FSR, Vol, 24, No. 2, sent by a Mrs. Helen Frank of Macon, Georgia. She asserts that the movie CE III K was disgusting and disappointing. Well, I totally disagree.

She pointed out in her letter that none of the UFOs in the movie fitted the descriptions of UFOs reported by witnesses in the UFO case. That is totally incorrect, as glowing spherical and conical-shaped UFOs are frequently reported.

She also stamps her feet on the fact that in one scene of the movie some toys and appliances go berserk (such EM effects are reported in some instances involving UFOs, especially after visits by MIB) and throws the baby into Dr. Hynek's lap (Dr. J. A. Hynek was the chief technical adviser for the movie, and is the world's foremost authority on UFOs) for giving the "OK" on such things. Well I should point out that there are many many aspects of the movie which don't fit the framework of ufology, but I should also remind Mrs. Frank that the movie after all was stated to be science fiction, and as for that, I am sure Dr. Hynek enjoys a good science fiction now and then.

Yours sincerley
Michael La Bonte,
6975 Pam,
Millington,
TN 3805 U.S.A.

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A WEIRD TALE FROM THE VIENNA WOODS

Gordon Creighton

A fifty-year-old Austrian named Josef Wanderka has sent us a lengthy account of several UFO sightings he claims to have had at various times and, in particular, of a close encounter that allegedly took place in August or September of 1955. Herr Wanderka's style is verbose in the extreme, and on top of that he is afflicted with a dreadful inability, so it seems, to write anything without lacing it generously with left-wing political propoganda. Should the reader find it queer that this gentleman has preserved total silence – as he claims – for 23 years about his UFO experience, one can but quote Herr Wanderka's own explanation, which is that he has never wanted to have any dealings with individual investigators or with UFO research groups in Austria because these folk – every man jack of them – "are all Nazis." (A proposition which I find myself quite unable to believe and I don't think many other people believe it either.)

Nevertheless we have this man's weird story, and, FSR being a forum for discussion, it seemed to me worthwhile to make a précis translation of those passages in his German article which bear upon our subject of UFOs, while omitting the sections in which he gives rein to his obsessive political rantings. As regards the tricky problem of the reliability of this story, Herr Wanderka's address is given below.[1] Perhaps some of our friends and readers in Austria will be good enough to go and see him and let us know in due course what opinion they have formed regarding his claims.

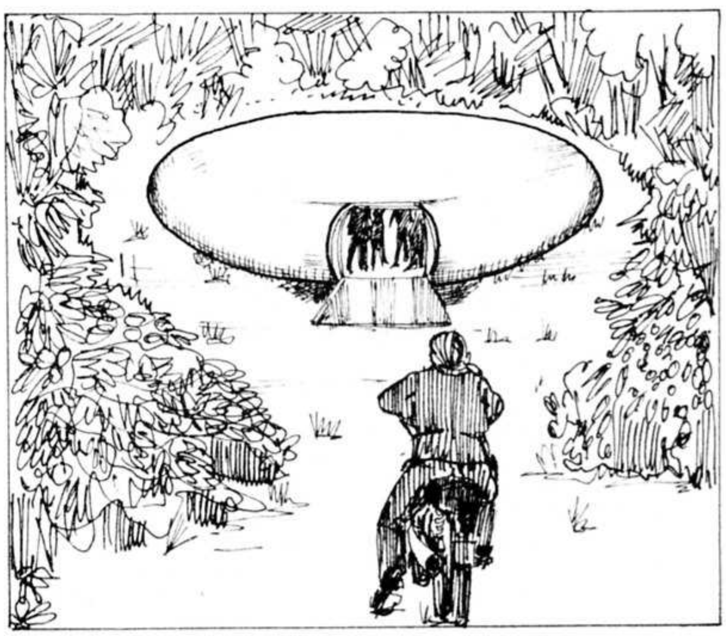
Before we come to his close encounter of 1955, a few words may be in order about another sighting that Herr Wanderka claims to have had one summer evening a year earlier, that is to say in 1954.

Josef Wanderka owned a powered cycle, and was extremely fond of making little excursions on it through that delightful country-side which lies so close at hand just outside Vienna. He claims that on the occasion in question he observed a powerful illuminated, silvery, cigar-shaped object flying slowly across the sky over Vienna, at approximately the speed of a small sports plane, as he estimated it. He thought the craft was possibly about five kilometres distant from him, and possibly more or less of the size (in terms of 1978) of a modern airliner. So far as he could detect, the thing seemed to be totally silent. He dismounted from his cycle and stood in a field beside the road to watch it, and got into conversation with a group of Russian soldiers[2] who were stationed nearby. The soldiers told him that they had often seen this silvery cigar. And one of them, "half seriously and half in jest," added that it was of course a new Soviet secret weapon.[3]

We come now to the encounter, which Herr Wanderka says took place about 2.00 or 3.00 p.m. one day at the end of August or beginning of September in 1955. He was again on his powered cycle and was riding along a path through a belt of woodland about 25 kilometres to the south-west of Vienna, when suddenly his attention was drawn to something of a dull metallic colour among the trees. So he rode off along a side path towards it, and suddenly found himself only 20 metres or so from a disc-shaped craft standing in a clearing. It was about ten or twelve metres wide and 2½ metres high, with no external signs of portholes or, seemingly, of any undercarriage or legs, as it was sitting directly upon the grass. There was however a roughly rectangular opening on the side of the machine facing him, with a ramp about four metres long and two metres wide running up to it.

The whole appearance of the craft was that of a completely plain, smooth, squat metallic machine, with no exterior embellishments or trappings. Through the open door he could see that the interior seemed to be illuminated by a pleasant sort of light, and he got a sudden inspiration to ride straight up the ramp and into the disc. He did so, and at once found himself surrounded by five or six people about 1 metre 80 cms. in height. (He gives his own height as 1 metre 78 cms., and says he remained there, seated in his saddle throughout the experience.)

Herr Wanderka says the beings had beautiful



Wanderka's encounter: heading for the ramp.

faces, with no blemish "...faces like those of children between the ages of six and ten among us."

The beings were wearing dull grey one-piece overalls without pattern and, so far as he could discern, without seams or openings. Their shoes were incorporated into the one-piece garment, but reveal-no toe-outlines. On their hands they had large undifferentiated gloves, finger-less, (known in England as mitts). Their figures seemed to be very slim and the one-piece suits hung quite loosely on them so that he could detect no sex characteristic (for example, as he explains, the outline of female breasts, had any of them been females).

Their necks emerged, he says, from what he could only describe as a sort of inflated silken "ruff." Their hair was fair, of medium length, and seemed to be secured under a sort of coif at the back of the head.

With regard to the internal lighting of the machine, Wanderka describes it as pleasant, yellowish, indirect, and casting no shadows. "The sort of thing we are aiming at today, twenty years later, as the ideal type of illumination for creating an 'intimate' and cosy atmosphere in living quarters."

The inside walls of the UFO were smooth, like the exterior, and curved to follow the outer shape. But what at once struck Wanderka as rather extraordinary was that nowhere could he discern any signs of instrumentation, or control levers, or other equipment, or indeed any seating arrangements for the crew, though he adds that this may have been because the crew, standing so closely around him, made it impossible for him to get an unfettered view of everything.

Wanderka says he told the entities his name and explained where he lived, apologizing for having burst in upon them so unceremoniously on his cycle. To this the entities replied with the remarkable information that they themselves hailed *from the top point of Cassiopeia.*

Astonished at their fluent German, Wanderka enquired how they came to know his language. They replied simply that they "had learnt it." He likens their voices to those of adult women among us, very clear, and with a slight accent. "They pronounced the individual syllables rather in the way that an Englishman does when talking German."

Herr Wanderka next decided to give his friends a summary account of the conditions prevailing upon our planet, delivering himself of a splendid and heated left-wing harangue well larded with all the usual clichés, and directed primarily against inequalities and privileges. Maybe the visitors found this a trifle boring, for after a while their attention seemed to rivet on to the odour of warm oil coming from his little motor. So he found it necessary to give them a brief account of how the combustion engine works. But before long he was back again on his favourite subject, the iniquity of the fact that on our planet we do not all appear to be precisely equal or to live in precisely the same conditions or surroundings, whereupon his visitors all burst into tears.

They then proceeded to intimate to Herr Wanderka that *he* would have to be the chosen one to change all this, and be the *Leader*[4] of a movement designed to do away with every form of privilege or inequality on earth.[5]

The interview was now at an end. Wanderka waved briefly to them and said "Good day!" while the UFOlings bowed to him ceremoniously "in Far Eastern fashion." Then, turning his cycle effortlessly through 180°, "as smoothly and easily as on a surface of ice," Herr Josef Wanderka rode off down the ramp and back to his home in Vienna.

Comment

I must again emphasise that we know nothing about the gentleman who provided this account, so we hope somebody in Austria will be able to secure further information for us. It may however well be felt that this odd story, dating from so early in the UFO business as 1955, has a certain "ring of truth" about it, particularly if one notes its absolute *absurdity* – a notable element in all UFO stories. When I say "a ring of turth" I am not thinking of what we call "reality," for it ought by now to be patently clear to everyone that whatever the nature of a UFO experience may be, it certainly does not take place inside any sort of everyday reality known to us.

The reader will note that the story contains a remarkable number of features that have cropped up in other UFO stories. The simple answer may well be that Herr Wanderka is a UFO buff and has read all the books. But, should this story *really* go back to 1955, one might ask oneself how much of the UFO literature had found its way into Austria and into the German language at that time? (Herr Wanderka tells us that he knows no foreign languages.) My guess would be that by 1955 very, very, little indeed of the UFO literature had found its way to Austria. That country, like Germany and all the rest of Central Europe, was very late in becoming aware of the UFO enigma, obviously owing to the traumatic effects of the Second World War and the grim necessities of recovery and survival.

NOTES

1. Josef Wanderka, Jorgerstrasse 51, 2/8, 1170 WIEN
2. Part of Austria was under Soviet occupation at that date.
3. Evidently the Soviets, alert to the obvious advantage of the idea that anything seen belting rapidly through the skies *simply had to be theirs.* This work of propaganda has borne excellent fruit, for there are probably still hundreds of thousands of people today in Europe and Africa and Asia (but maybe not so many in the USA!) who are quite sure that every UFO is a secret Russian machine, the product of a perfect and unrivalled technology. By their fatuous policies and attitudes the western governments have also done much to foster this idea. You don't have to be very bright to see who is the sole beneficiary from such ineptitude.
4. But, dear me, this doesn't sound very democratic or egalitarian, does it!
5. This sounds like bad news for the men of the Kremlin!

THE GATWICK AIRPORT SIGHTINGS

John Judge

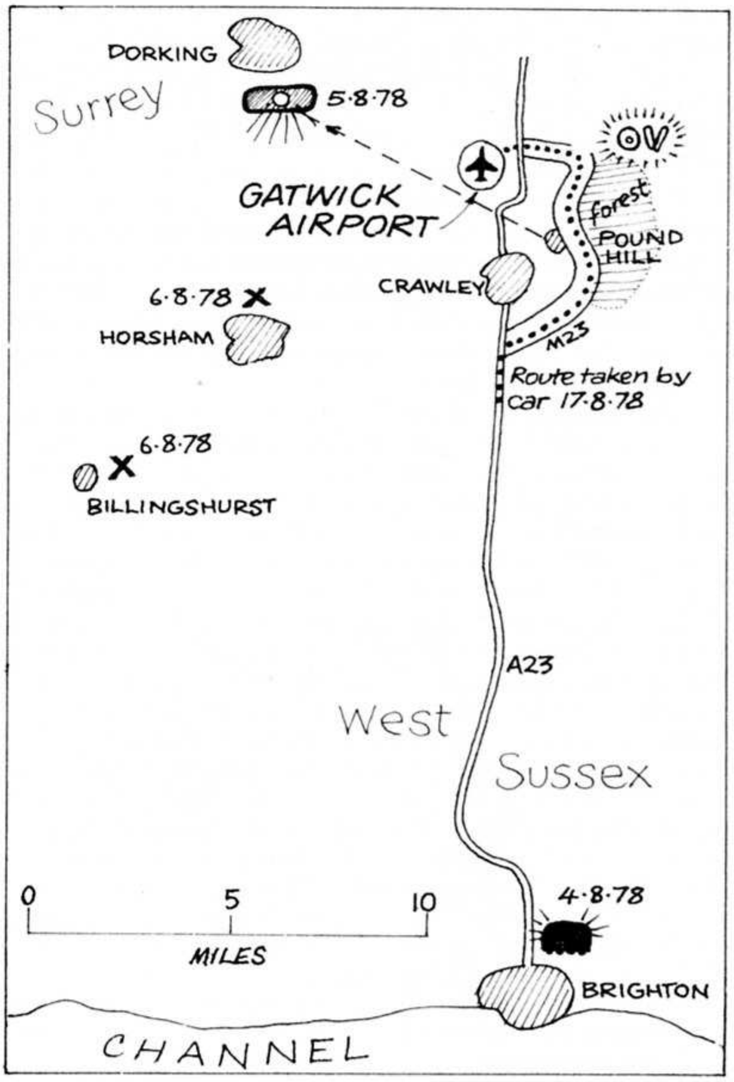
GATWICK AIRPORT is situated in West Sussex, roughly half way between London and Brighton. It is the capital's second airport, being the starting point for many overseas charter flights as well as a large number of scheduled international services. It is therefore one of the major airports in the United Kingdom.

News of the happenings there was broken by the Independent Television News on Tuesday, August 8, 1978, and the Brighton *Evening Argus* for that date. The reporter, John Ellis, had researched the story and, when contacted by Alastair Prevost, was very helpful. When Alastair was put in touch with the original sources that day, he too found them of great help, often putting through calls to staff who were on duty on the day in question. However, it seems that as soon as the story was made public a clamp down was enforced. In his original story "A close look at those Close Encounters," Mr. Ellis had quoted a Ministry of Defence spokesman as saying "Every possible explanation will be looked into. It is a long and involved process. Trained investigators will want to study the position of stars at the time, the weather conditions and the possibility of an aircraft or balloon being mistaken for a UFO." This was, not without some justification, termed a "government investigation" by the press. When I came to pick up the pieces about a month later I found that not only was no real assistance forthcoming, but that John Ellis had also encountered deadlock in his efforts to discover what the "government investigation" had concluded.

It seems that the main event occurred on Saturday, August 5, 1978, at 12.57 p.m. Mr. G. Potter was the Air Traffic Supervisor at the airport that afternoon, having come on duty shortly before that time. The A23 road runs north from the town of Crawley, a mile or so from the airport. To the right (i.e. south east of the airport) is an elevated area known as Pound Hill. The occupants of several cars, some with caravans heading to or from holidays on the south coast, saw a strange object appear over the hill and travel quite slowly on a north westerly course, virtually right over the airfield, and heading towards Dorking, Surrey (8 miles west north west). It was described as a black cigar with an intensely brilliant white light in the centre. The object was descending slowly and was finally lost to sight behind trees. There was no sound.

Unfortunately, nobody at the airport seems to have taken details from any of the witnesses, although it is known that one man was named Mead. He estimated that the object at its closest was little more than a quarter of a mile away. Although Alastair could obtain no details, he was told that Air Traffic Control staff at the airport did see the object.

> Jenny Randles, in her capacity as Secretary of UFOIN, writes:-
> "On Tuesday, August 8, 1978, the national news was filled with stories of some amazing happenings in the vicinity of Gatwick Airport. A government enquiry was promised — then, as so often happens, all went quiet. Squadron Leader Alastair Prevost was on to the affair immediately for UFOIN, and did a good deal of the necessarily speedy follow-up. Sadly it was his last case, as he was already seriously affected by his terminal illness. John Judge picked up the pieces and completed the investigation but we owe a great debt to Alastair Prevost, who knew how important it was to act right away. Despite an often painful situation, he was willing to work on to the end."



He was not informed if it was detected on radar.

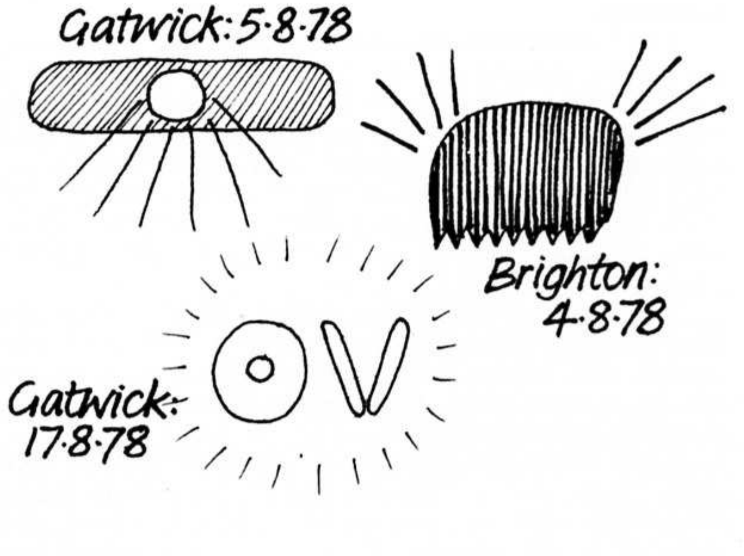
ATC Gatwick sent an immediate signal to the chief UK control at West Drayton. A Flt. Lt. Lockwood received this (it was coded Sic Echo Uniform Kilo... D 51 545 ZA) The MOD in London were also informed, although interestingly, Alastair was told by ATC Gatwick "they only act as a post office."

I contacted Mr. Watson, the area co-ordinator for CONTACT UK. He had a good personal contact at Gatwick Airport who had often been very responsive in the past. He had written immediately to this man, but when a reply was received (dated September 13, 1978) it was from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in London, signed by Miss G.J Jamieson. She simply stated: "I regret I cannot help you over the incident you mention. We are grateful for the reports sent to us..." She then went on to repeat the by now monotonous refrain on the score of investigating for defence implications and that no evidence of a defence threat had been discovered.

It was possible to obtain the weather details for the time in question. There was a light wind at 7 knots from bearing 240^{o} – which strongly indicates that the object was not windborne. Since ATC at Gatwick had no knowledge of the traffic passing under a mile from their runway we can safely assume it was not a conventional aircraft.

In the circumstances only one conclusion is possible. The sudden change in public relations by the Civil Aviation Authorities at Gatwick implies that they may have received instructions from the MOD to stop being as helpful as they had been to both John Ellis and Alastair initially. Similarly the failure to come up with any explanation, and the apparent "government investigation" during which they took no details from the civilian witnesses who telephoned, indicates that an unknown phenomenon was observed, possibly even on radar, and that trained airport staff witnessed it.

While I ran up against a brick wall with this sighting, Alastair had picked up many other leads that indicated that the area around Gatwick had been subjected to quite a flap during the first half of August. I was much more successful in chasing these up, being able to obtain full reports from most of the witnesses. Here is a brief review.



Devil's Dyke Sighting

On the evening before the airport sighting, namely Friday, August 4, 1978, Mr. and Mrs. Freer-Ash were out walking on the South Downs, near Brighton, at the well-known Devils Dyke. The time was 9.20 p.m. and it was twilight, but still quite light. Mr. Freer-Ash is a Chartered Estate surveyor and is well used to observation. The object seen was to the South West at about 20^{o} elevation, seemingly very low. It was the apparent size of a golf ball at arm's length, and yellow in colour. Bright light poured out from each top edge, and the underside appeared jagged and seemed to flicker.

The witnesses lined this object up with a bush and noted that it was hovering. After thirty seconds it rose and moved away slightly. It climbed to elevation 75^{o} where it disappeared into cloud. This motion was extremely fast and apparently soundless, although Mr. Freer-Ash said the wind was blowing into his face, possibly distracting him from any sound.

The wind was from bearing of 220^{o} at 10 knots, and there was one eighth cloud at 2200 feet, and five eights at 4500 feet.

Billingshurst Sighting

On Sunday, August 6, 1978, there was yet another sighting. This time two 14 year-olds, Raymond Edmunds and his girl friend, Miss K. Botting, were walking their dog in the village of Billingshurst, 12 miles South West of Gatwick. It was about 9.15 p.m. and the sun was just setting. There was full cloud at 4500 feet, and lower cloud at 800 feet. The wind was from bearing 220^{o} at 7 knots.

They spotted an object in the South West, looking at first like a bright star. But it came closer, moving too slowly to be an aircraft, and they realised it was triangular in shape. It then moved alongside low cloud and finally disappeared into it. After about four minutes the cloud moved away and the object was still there, hovering. It then accelerated very fast and moved away westwards, before slowing down again.

Raymond called Gatwick, who put him on to Horsham police station. While he was making his report, Miss Botting saw the object move slowly out of sight to the West.

Horsham police have logged the call as being received at 9.35 p.m. Since the estimate of duration of the sighting by the witnesses was 15 minutes, this tallies well. Horsham police had also received a call from a Mrs. Quinton who reported what they took to be the same object. They dispatched PC Page to investigate, and he too saw the triangular light moving westwards. By the time he reached the spot where it first seemed to have been hovering, it had moved out of sight. Horsham is on a line between Billingshurst and Gatwick.

More unusual "flying Objects" over Pound Hill

Perhaps the most interesting sighting occurred on the morning of Thursday, August 17, 1978. Miss M, a 29 year-old airport receptionist from Burgess Hill, was travelling, with a workmate who is similarly employed, towards Gatwick Airport to start their shift. It was 5.15 a.m. on a cool, dry morning with scattered cloud. It was still dark.

To the south of Crawley they joined the M23 motorway which links the 7 miles to the airport. Almost immediately on joining M-way they noticed to the North East, at an elevation of about 30°, two very clear letters in the sky. These were a clearly outlined 'O' and a 'V'. The 'O' had only a small centre hole. They were coloured white, and were the brightness of car headlights. Each object seemed to be about the size of a golf ball at arm's length. The objects appeared to be over the Pound Hill area, scene of the initial Gatwick encounter.

Partly because they were on a motorway, where stopping is illegal, and partly because they were late for work, they drove on. They do not recall seeing any other traffic on the motorway. When they passed through Tilgate Forest the objects were temporarily obscured, but they were seen again, still in the same position, as the women turned off the motorway, westwards towards the airport.

There was a wind of 5 knots from bearing 260° and one-eighth cloud at 1000 feet. At no time did they see the objects pass in front of, or behind cloud. They were in view, off and on, for seven minutes.

While the two women do not realise it, and it may of course be pure coincidence, the letters O V make an intriguing and unusual formation. It is, of course, the first two letters of O V N I – the term used in many languages for U.F.O. The initials O V stand for "Objets Volantes" – or Flying Objects.

These were not the only sightings in the flap. Many odd lights were reported. Something quite unusual was going on in the vicinity of Gatwick Airport during those two weeks in August.

TWO ENTITY REPORTS FROM ITALY

Verga Maurizio

> About this report, Jenny Randles writes:
> "I am indebted to Signor Maurizio for supplying us with details of these two fascinating cases – one recent, one from the distant past. Sig. Maurizio is an investigator for the Italian UFO Centre 'Centro Ufologico Nazionale' and was helped in the 1951 case by investigator, Sig. Z. Fabrizie. The investigation notes were kindly supplied in English and although there are a few phrases that are not quite clear I believe I have pieced them together in the manner in which they were intended." – EDITOR

THE first encounter involved a farmer who wishes to remain anonymous. He resides in the country around Veghenza (Ferrara) in Northern Italy. The incident took place about 1.00 p.m. on the afternoon of August 14, 1951.

The farmer saw an object come down to the ground and land in some open ground adjacent to the town's cemetery. As it was coming down it looked rather like the planet Saturn, but tentatively he approached to within 150 feet of the object and obtained a clear view of it on the ground.

It was about 20 feet in diameter and it had the colour of a white, aluminium-like metal. It looked like a double saucer placed rim to rim, with a big dome on top. On this dome there were large "ailerons." The centre of these seemed to remain fixed while the outer surfaces rotated, but this was only noted when t'.e object took off.

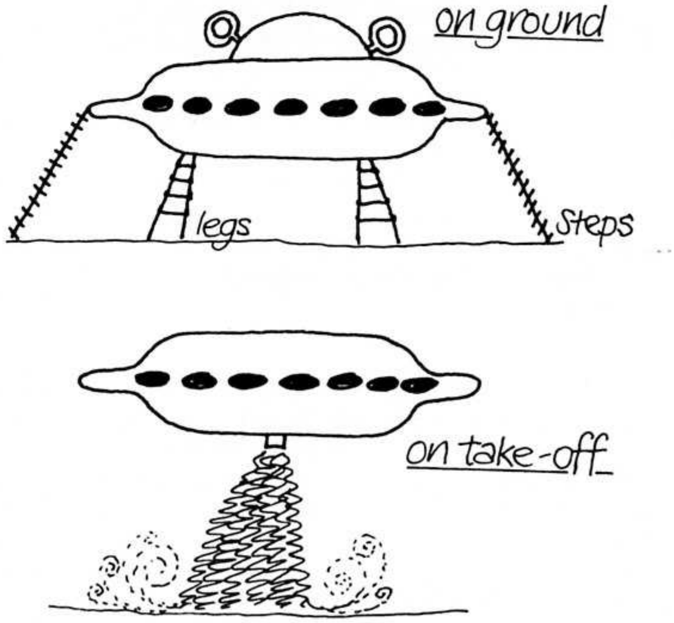
The farmer says the craft sat on telescopic supports, and had a set of stairs at each side that came down from the middle of the object to the ground. A row of portholes was visible on the side, seemingly set in a ring around the rim. These were dull blue.

While standing transfixed and staring stupefied at this sight the farmer was approached by six strange beings. They seemed to be looking around at the cemetery with great curiosity and, when they saw him, they came towards him laughing. Five were clean shaven but one had a short red beard. He made a gesture towards the farmer with his hand, which was interpreted as a greeting. They seemed to communicate with one another by a system of similar hand signs.

The beings were about four feet tall, or just under, and were dressed in one piece shiny overalls of a white colour. They wore white ankle boots which rose up to the knees. On the back they carried several cylinders or "oxygen bottles" that were strapped on, and attached by tubes under the chin. Around the hips were belts about 8 inches in diameter. These had various "lenses" of differing colours slipped into them.

The faces of the beings were a whitish colour and looked rather like those of monkeys. The eyes were round, and coloured azure blue. The arms appeared to be longer than those of a human, stretching down to below the knees.

Each being was carrying a "weapon" that looked something like a "tommy-gun." They had round magazines and, at one point, one was raised and pointed at the witness. There was a flash which was



dazzling but seemingly had no effect on the man.

On their heads, says the farmer, the entities wore round transparent helmets that had three antennae sticking out. Two came from the sides and one from the top central part of the helmet.

After the "shot" was fired the farmer, recovering from the shocked surprise, noted that the entities had moved back towards their craft and mounted the steps either side, three by three. The red bearded creature was the last to climb into the object.

As soon as they were all inside, the protruberances started to retract smoothly, and then there was a brief, loud noise, something like that of a vacuum cleaner. A little nozzle then appeared on the central underside and spouted flame of a red/green colour (rather like kerosene burning) at which the object started to rise slowly.

It reached a certain height and then stopped. A few seconds pause, then it tilted to the side and streaked away at an incredible speed in the direction of Venice. An area of burnt soil about 25 feet in diameter was left where it had stood.

On the slopes of Mount Etna

Our second encounter story was related by *La Sicilia* for July 6, 1978, and concerns an incident alleged to have taken place at about 10.30 p.m. on the night of July 4, 1978. There were four witnesses, Franco Padellero (aged 27) and Attilio Di Salvatore (aged 30), both sergeants in the Italian Air Force, Maurizio Esposito (aged 21) an Italian naval officer, and Signora Antonina Di Pietro, who was a friend of the latter. They were all off duty, taking a vacation by Mount Sona on the slopes of the great volcano, Etna, on the island of Sicily.

The first thing they noticed was a triangle of bright red lights in the sky. These three lights seemed to pulsate, growing larger then smaller. Suddenly one of them detached itself and streaked down towards the group. It went out of sight, behind the slope, about 1000 feet away.

Deciding to investigate, the group got into Di Salvatore's car and drove along towards the place where the object had seemed to land. By the side of the road there was a dip and as they rounded a bend they saw a dazzle of bright light coming from the dip. Stopping the car they got out and went over to the edge to look. Sitting by a rocky precipice below them was a classically shaped flying saucer, about 40 ft. across.

The object had a dome on top that was a brilliant yellow in colour. The rest of it was of a reddish hue, with red and blue lights on top. By the side of the craft on the precipice there were five or six beings. These were very tall, and wore black overall-like suits that fitted very tightly. Their features were human and the four witnesses said they looked very beautiful. The hair was a blond colour. Two of the beings began to climb the slopes of the precipiece towards the witnesses, who by now are rooted to the spot, immobilised by a strange force. The entities were smiling at them and came to within about 15 feet, before one nodded his head towards the saucer and they started to climb down again.

The object had now started to glow with myriad tiny lights of many colours but the yellow, red and blue still predominated. Suddenly a car drove past and all the lights on the object went out. As soon as the car had gone they brightened again.

Soon after this the hold on the witnesses was released suddenly. They wasted no time in scrambling back to their car and driving to the hotel as fast as possible. They did not see the UFO depart.

For some time afterwards all four felt drained of all energy.

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SERIOUS BOOK: *La Memoire des OVNI* by Jean Bastide. Mercure de France, 26 rue de Conde, 75006 Paris, France. Price £7.00.

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A CLASSIC REPEATER WITNESS

Jenny Randles

In addition to being *Flying Saucer Review's* secretarial assistant, Miss Randles is Secretary of the UFO Investigators Network (UFOIN). Address: 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Salford, Greater Manchester. M30 6NJ. Telephone 061 775 4749.

ROY WILKINSON of Brightlingsea, Essex, submitted a most intriguing set of data to the *Daily Express* UFO Bureau. Since he lived in a part of the country not well covered by investigators and since our Essex members were in any event already more than busy, I decided to find out more myself.

Mr. Wilkinson has been very helpful, answering all my questions fully, and also supplying voluminous notes taken at the time, site drawings and sketches of the objects seen.

It might seem odd that Mr. Wilkinson should do this. However, he has had an interest in the paranormal since childhood, when he had several experiences that I shall refer to later. These triggered his interest in psychic phenomena, although he has always maintained an open-minded and level-headed approach to such matters. He had, nevertheless, given almost no thought to UFOs until his first sighting in 1971. Following this he decided to keep a record of anything that occurred, and has since come to view the two as wholly related.

His current viewpoint may be best summarised by himself:

"I think that when studying UFO phenomena one must look into all phenomena, i.e. ancient, modern, myth and religion etc. All appear to be pieces of a giant jigsaw puzzle, but there appears to be one piece missing. I often wonder if that final piece is waiting just around the corner, or if somebody has found it and does not realise it... I find it difficult to establish fact from fiction, with such a vast amount of phenomena around us it is difficult to say what is normal... I find it very hard to believe that over all the thousands of years during which UFOs have been recorded that superior people from another world, or worlds, have not made contact with man. It is a very long way to come from outer space just to observe earth and not make contact... If they were from another dimension they could have been here all the time."

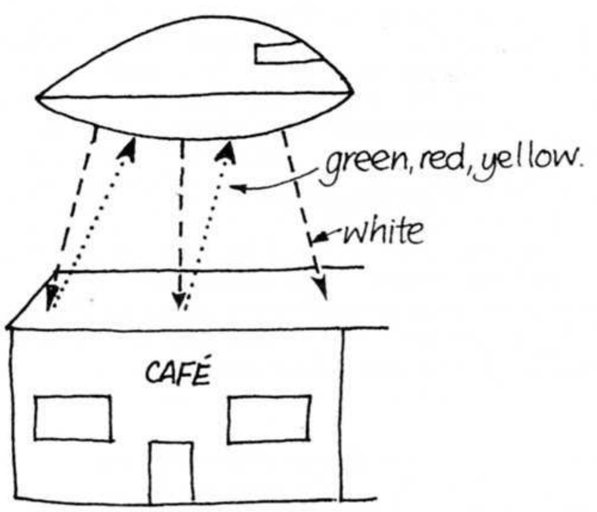
At the foot of Hythe Hill, Colchester

Roy's first UFO encounter took place on Wednesday, November 10, 1971 (note the recurrence of Wednesdays in the reports that follow). It was a clear night with many stars.

At about 8.25 p.m. he was walking up Hythe Hill in Colchester, Essex close to the factory where he works. He became aware of an object hovering to his right over the top of a café at the bottom of the hill. He stopped in the doorway of a betting shop and looked down towards the café. He had a very clear view.

At first all that could be seen was a brilliant white ball, but then it changed to green, red, yellow and then back to white. When it shone the other colours, the shape of the object was clearly seen.

It was shaped like a rounded dome, with the top surface slightly more curved that the bottom. The dark surface of the object was broken only by a "window" in the front. This was only visible when the red and yellow lights were in evidence. It was narrow and rectangular, seemingly about four feet by two feet, although it appeared to be wrapped around the front of the object so that only part of it was in view. It gave off a yellowish, candle-like light that was milkish or opaque. It was impossible to see inside.



November 10, 1971, as sketched by Roy Wilkinson

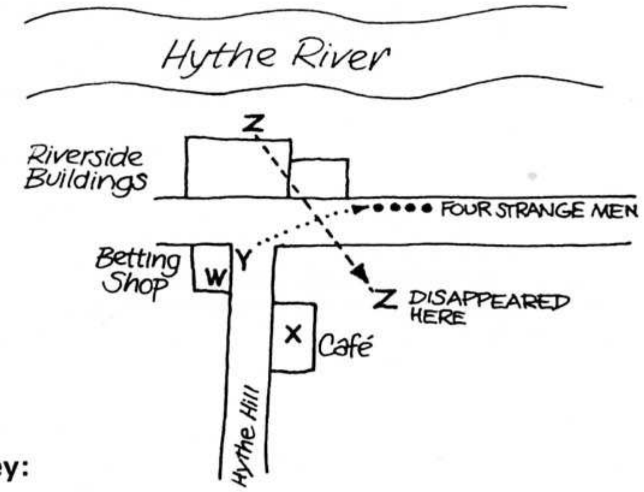
Roy was looking East South East towards this strange object. It appeared to be hovering about 30-40 feet above the café rooftop, and was tilted away slightly to reveal a little of the smooth underside. The white light shone down brightly on to the rooftop, but the other colours did not. They seemed to be reflected upwards to the craft, illuminating it.

As he gazed on in astonishment, the colour change occurred five times, going white – green – red – yellow – white. In all this took about five minutes, he believes. Then suddenly it was gone, just as quickly as it had seemed to appear.

Judging by the size of the cafe roof, he would

estimate the object's width to be 20 feet.

Regardless of how odd this sighting had been, Roy says that the most peculiar feature of it occurred afterwards. He found himself walking away very puzzled as to why there was nobody else on the hill. The area is usually quite busy at that time of night, but there was nothing about at all. Then as he turned the corner at the top of the hill it was, as he says "... like opening a door and entering a party" – suddenly the eerie silence was broken by cars, noise, and people and everything was normal.



Key:

November 10, 1971

W: Position of witness, X: UFO hovered.

January 25, 1972

Y: Position, and path, of witness. Z: UFO course.

This feeling of "time standing still," or total isolation from the real world is a common feature of close encounters. It occurred, for example, in the Fencehouses, County Durham CE3 (FSR Vol. 22, No.6). It is undoubetdly a significant factor, relevant to the precise nature of the experience that is undergone.

On/off ring near Colchester

The following Wednesday, at almost exactly the same time, Roy saw something again. It was 8.28p.m. and he was walking towards Colchester Lathe Company. The factory had not yet started up. suddenly an object appeared directly over his head. It was low (estimated at 100 feet) and appeared simply as a circle of white light on the underside rim. This was continually going on and off, giving the impression of rotation. Frightened, he ran a hundred yards or so the factory gate and immediately confronted a friend, Mr. D Sencier. Both then went outside and saw the object, now in the South South West. It hovered for a few moments as they watched it and then moved away slowly to the West, disappearing out of sight behind the buildings of the Moler Works.

Down by the river

On Tuesday, January 25, 1972, the sky was clear with some stars. At 8.21 p.m. Roy was again walking to work and passing the betting shop on Hythe Hill (the scene of his first sighting). This time he was to have an even closer encounter.

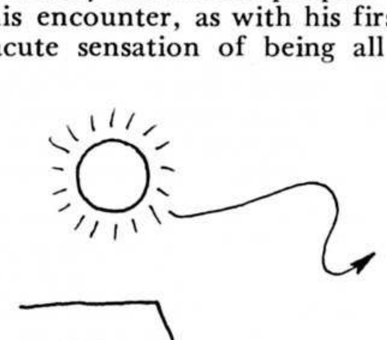
He first observed a bright ball of white light over the River ahead of him (in the North, North East). It moved very slowly on an almost southerly course at a height of about 80 feet. Spotting four men standing by the riverside buildings, looking out over the river, he ran across to join them. The huge light, now appearing to be 10 feet in diameter passed directly overhead on a slow, undulating course. He likens it to the way that a snake moves.

As it passed directly overhead the air around him and the ground under his feet seemed to become alive with a feeling of electricity. It was like receiving a mild electric shock, tingling and very noticeable. The object proceeded to the South, the feeling vanished, and then the object suddenly disappeared. One minute it was there. The next minute it had gone.

The whole incident had taken no more than about three minutes, and caught up by it all he had been half gazing at the object and half at his surroundings. He had not spoken to the men, nor had they acknowledged to him that they could see the object (although it appears they could hardly have missed it) Oddly they did not speak to one another either. They simply stood by the wall and were transfixed, like statues. After the object had gone he turned to them, but they had vanished. There was no sign of them anywhere. Obviously, he could have been too intent on the object in the sky to have seen them go, but he says that he was within inches of them and feels positive he would have seen or heard something of their departure.

Since he took so little note of them he cannot describe them very well. He feels that they wore some kind of overall, but he is not sure, and they seemed to be carrying a workman's shoulder bag. They looked exactly like normal people.

During this encounter, as with his first, Roy says he felt an acute sensation of being all alone. The



January 25, 1972, incident as sketched by witness

whole area seemed motionless and without the normality it should have had.

Repeated Performance

Throughout the rest of 1972 he saw numerous lights high in the sky, usually yellowy in colour. These performed odd manoeuvres such as zig-zags, and he logged them all. No other close encounters took place.

Then almost a year after his initial sighting, on Wednesday November 15, 1972, he saw another low level object.

On this occasion he was further away from his place of work, walking along Avonway at about 8.10 p.m. The sky was clear with a few scattered clouds. The object was first seen as a bright yellow light, again moving alongside him. It seemed to be travelling about 30 ft above the high tension power lines that run alongside the road. It was silent, and moving so slowly that he was overtaking it as he walked.

At this point he stopped for a better look. The object looked like a round ball about 20 ft in diameter. It changed from yellow to a very bright white, speeded up and climbed a little, being lost to sight, inside a moment or two, in cloud. He felt nothing unusual on this occasion.

The following Wednesday, November 22, 1972 it was there again! He was once more walking along Avonway, at about 8.00 p.m. This time the sky was cloudless and many stars were visible.

He first observed a dim yellow light moving west, but then it altered course and once more flew over the power lines. It then stopped and changed from dim to bright and then it started to move to the South West along the power lines. He was able to keep pace with it as he walked along for about 300 yards. He stopped walking again and watched it accelerate away, flashing on/off from yellow to white. It did this for three minutes until it was lost to view.

This was the last sighting (as at July 1978) that he can call a "close encounter" although he as seen many unknown lights since then. The strangest was perhaps on March 16, 1973, when at 8.45 p.m. he saw a half circle of lights over the Moler works. There was one bright yellow light and several smaller red, green and blue lights. It moved in an erratic stop-start motion.

Other Paranormal Phenomena

Considering his background Roy says that he must be regarded as psychic, as he has had many odd experiences. Often, for example, he is able to pick up vibrations from a place that he visits and get "good or "bad" feelings, some of which could be borne out be researching the history.

He recalls specifically one instance when he was 17. It was before he began to delve into any kind of paranormal phenomena. He was walking into Colchester town centre to meet some friends, and decided to take a short cut along an alleyway that runs next the local church. This first crosses the railway line and then becomes very narrow (with just enough room to allow two people to squeze past one another). At this point there is a very high garden fence on one side and an eight foot high wall on the other.

It was November (note how significant this month

Fortean Times

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seems to be to him) and cold and dark. The time was about 7.00 p.m. There were absolutely no lights along the alleyway, and he was hastening his step to get through to meet his friends. Suddenly, ahead of him, he saw a light, looking exactly like a cigarette glowing in the dark. Thinking it was someone walking towards him he thought no more of it. Presently he heard the sound of footsteps.

As the light approached he could not make out a figure, but the light came so close to his face that it almost touched him. It was simply a reddish glow. Instinctively he fell back against the wall, but he felt nothing brush past him — no sensation at all. He also noticed that the footsteps had stopped. Then he heard a sound that was like someone turning round. He looked back but there was absolutely nothing there. He is positive that there is no way that anyone could have scaled the wall in one go

There then followed what appears to be a blackout. He recalls nothing of the next few seconds and then, suddenly, he was standing at the end of the alleyway (just a few yards away) but he was completely soaked from head to foot. His clothes were dripping wet, as if he had jumped into a bath fully dressed! He has no recollection of how this happened. If there was a time lapse it was too short to be noticed. On later research he found nothing unusual about the alleyway or church.

This case, then, gives us a fascinating look into the background of a "repeater" witness. One can see that the UFO experiences are but a part of his overall paranormal history. He appears to possess a special sensitivity towards something. He views it as another dimension. That may be so. However, it is clear that if we could understand what it was that his psychological make-up possesses, that enables him to "read the vibrations" of an area, or pick up the presence of the alley-walker by the church, then it would give us an insight into the reason why some people seem so "gifted." Why do some people see UFOs frequently, and often experience close encounters with all their bizarre attributes? Why do others see nothing at all in a whole lifetime? These, I believe, are crucial questions. Ones upon which the solution to the whole UFO mystery may depend.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE...

THIRTY YEARS AFTER KENNETH ARNOLD — *Dr. Pierre Guerin (member of GEPAN)*

MORE INTERESTING NEWS FROM RUSSIA — *Gordon Creighton*

LIFE IN THE COSMOS *(Translated from the Russian by Gordon Creighton)*

SEVEN SCARED WITNESSES AND A HUMANOID — *Verga Maurizio*

PHENOMENON OVER SOUTH URAL — *Vladimir V. Rubtsov*

LATE NEWS ITEM...

Sir Eric Gairy, Prime Minister of Grenada, has been ousted from office in a coup by the Grenadan Opposition; a move made easier by the fact that the P.M. was in New York. (Awaiting the outcome of his UFO initiative?) Whether or not the impetus of that initiative will be maintained, now time alone will tell.
(See page 5)

CORRECTION PLEASE, BUFORA

In its issue Vol. 8, No. 1, of 1979, *Bufora Journal* carried an item entitled "Machynlleth 'Jellentities'" which was a re-written version of the article "Jelly-like entities at Machynlleth" which appeared in FSR Vol. 24, No. 4, and which was an edited version of Mr. Andrew Collins' text. It is not clear why the investigator chose to offer a carbon copy of his text to *Bufora Journal* as he had been told the article would appear in *Flying Saucer Review.* The main point at issue, however, is that *Bufora Journal* attributed the copyright to Mr. Collins when it was not his in the first place. It happens that the initial report was one which came to FSR in our allocation of letters from the *Daily Express*, and UFOIN was asked to investigate the report. Mr. Collins was requested to do this as he was the UFOIN investigator who lived nearest to the witness. Furthermore it is with concern that we note that *Bufora Journal* neglected to give due credit to FSR and UFOIN.

EDITOR

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BEDFORDSHIRE MID-AIR "COLLISION"

Ken Phillips

Classification: September 15 1974 Billington, Bedfordshire MED Level C

LESLIE MOULSTER is a UFO enthusiast, he freely admits.* As he says, "I have been interested in the UFO business since the mid-fifties, read most of the books on the subject, subscribed to FSR since its inception, given lectures on the subject etc. So what do I do when I see a UFO? I panic and say nothing about it. After all who is going to believe a UFO addict? I wouldn't for one, and it would only confirm the general view that UFO enthusiasts sit around and talk about their latest contact with the 'space people'."

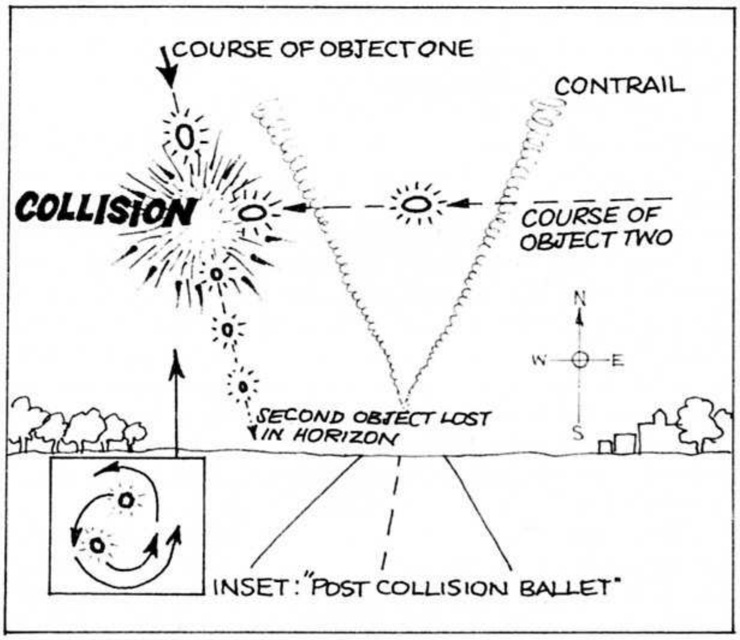
So this sighting remained dormant for four years before Leslie was brave enough to come forward and tell us about it. This he did principally because in recent months several similar incidents have come to light, and it is now not so strangely unique as it seemed at the time of its occurrence.

Mr. Moulster is an instrument fitter, now aged 47. He lives in Dunstable, and on this particular Sunday evening in 1974 he was driving along a minor road between Stanbridge and Billington, heading roughly south west. It was about 7 p.m. on a sunny evening with a light breeze and scattered cloud.

Being quite an expert in aviation he became interested in a vapour trail that crossed the sky ahead of him. It ran north-south, with the aircraft at its northern head, and disappeared into cirro-stratus cloud towards the horizon. Although it seemed that the aircraft responsible was very high (he thinks probably a Boeing 747 on a trans-polar overfly route) the trail itself was unusually wide and spread out.

Presently he turned right on to the A4146 at the Billington junction (about ½ mile from the Bedfordshire/Buckinghamshire border). He was now travelling northwards towards Leighton Buzzard and was directly under the trail. At this point he became aware of a silvery object flying parallel with the trail heading north, but offset slightly to the west of it. This he took to be another aircraft, following the same route as the first, but was surprised that it did not leave any vapour trail at all.

Mr. Moulster watched the silver oval no larger in apparent size than a pinhead) as it moved to about a 60° angle from his field of view. He had just passed through the village of Billington, when he noted to the East a clear disc shape — very similar to the



first object but coloured, quite distinctly, a dull reddish brown.

The witness had by now slowed his car appreciably to watch the sight, because it seemed that the two objects were on a collision course. Indeed within a matter of seconds they did collide with a vivid flash that temporarily blinded him and obscured everything in the vicinity.

Reacting with instinctive horror Mr. Moulster expected to see bits of wreckage falling to earth because he had totally accepted these objects as ordinary aircraft (the second one reflecting the setting sun to the West). However, after a second or so when vision returned to normal he saw in fact an amazing aerial ballet. The two objects were still quite intact and encircling one another far too tightly to be conventional aircraft.

He watched this for a few moments but his attention was distracted by the blare of a car horn behind him. An irate driver in a Rover 2000 car was becoming annoyed at his obstruction. Mr. Moulster signalled for him to overtake, and on looking back noticed that the reddish brown object had disappeared. The silver one was now proceeding on its original course as if nothing had happened!

Mr. Moulster watched the silvery dot move away northwards for a minute or two until it was lost in the horizon cloud. Every so often it seemed to flare up to the brilliance of the flash during the collision. Despite enquiries he found nobody else who had been witness to this strange sight, a factor that added to his reluctance to speak out.

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* *[I can testify to that, for Mr. Moulster was involved with **R.H.B. Winder**, G. Creighton and myself in the investigation in 1967 of the "Little Blue Man of Studham Common" — see FSR Vol. 13, No. 4. He was also involved in a debate with me in the columns of "Mail Bag" on Lenticular clouds in 1962/3 —* EDITOR]

RESEARCH REPORT–1

Jenny Randles

THE idea behind this section is that it should be an up-to-the-minute review of the latest ideas, projects and developments in the world of UFO research. Its success, or otherwise, as a regular feature naturally depends upon how you, the researcher and interested UFO reader, react to it. It stands or falls on the submissions of suggestions, news and progress reports on serious and well-planned research projects.

There is a dividing line in ufology, albeit a hazy one, where on the one side there are those who investigate and collect sighting report information, while on the other side there are those who try to do something with this mass of data. Obviously there are some who have a foot in both camps, but primarily one has to make a choice as to which direction one's own interests will go.

Now there is little doubt that both are intermixed and cannot survive without one another. The research needs a constant supply of raw data, which inevitably needs to have been reliably investigated. Similarly it is a rather forlorn hope to expect that collecting reports will ever "solve" the problems that the UFOs throw up. So we need a healthy promotion of both aspects if we wish to avoid utter stagnation. It might be nice for some *not* to find the answers because the mystery (and presumably their "hobby") is proliferated. However, to the majority of ufologists the answers, hopefully are there to be found, and we must make more effort to do do.

Flying Saucer Review has concentrated on the publication of significant sighting reports from many parts of the world. In so doing it builds a permanent record and so fulfils a vital function. Furthermore, it has also carried, over the years, much important speculation and research results. from workers such as Michel, Vallée Saunders and Poher, not to mention its own editorial team and consultants. However, with a growing world trend towards specialisation in some aspect of the phenomenon there is now a need for a new regular function of this journal — to keep interested parties aware of what is being done with the data and how.

RESEARCH REPORT hopes to plug this gap.

Of course, FSR will still be more than happy, the Editor tells me, to consider completed articles on research results, but these often take years to achieve and there is need to note developments and aid interaction of several ongoing research projects. This column can achieve this and also help to give you the outlet to announce your plans and receive support from like-minded readers.

To begin with I would like to describe a research project that I have been involved with since the Autumn of 1976. It is something that could be repeated in other parts of the world with similar effectiveness. Since publication of the first results is imminent (possibly by the time you read this) the time seems ripe to describe the methodology involved.

The idea sprang from the minds of independant researcher Ian Cresswell and ufologist Bernard Delair, editor of the CONTACT (UK) publications and director of their research. They got together with me and we devised the project. We have also received substantial help along the way from NUFON workers Peter Warrington and Rosalind Parsons.

We decided that it was important to provide a comprehensive reference source for UFO sighting data within a certain region. Inevitably this was scattered in a large number of places and the task of collating these was enormous. Yet we felt it could be of great benefit to ufology to do this, so we set about the mammoth undertaking.

The first steps were to decide which sources were to be handled by whom, and at the same time to begin to card index the relevant data to a co-ordinated plan. The area agreed for this first "catalogue" was Northern England. This we defined clearly (basically to cover counties north of a line through the Shropshire/West Midlands southern borders to the Wash). The major sources were the three main UK organisations, BUFORA, CONTACT and NUFON (UFOIN being virtually synonymous in this respect with NUFON). There were also all issues of FSR, old copies of defunct group journals (such as *Orbit,* the publication of the Tyneside group), and a fantastically rich source at the Newcastle Central Library (which is the UK library and has UFOs as its specialist subject and therefore stocks copies of all UFO-related books published in this country).

The long process of card indexing quickly uncovered how many reports we would be handling (many thousands) and meant that a cut-off point was required. We finally decided upon December 31, 1975 (later years being added as an appendix at some future date). It also necessitated the development of meaningful classification systems for the data and investigation levels (see FSR Vol. 24, No. 2) which help to facilitate the amount of data that could be transferred to ufologists from published material without becoming to complex.

There were also long debates about the data that should be specifically included. One could not put in every minute scrap of information or the cataogue would stretch into thousands of pages and be as confusing and useless as the infamous Condon report. So eventually it was decided to include date, time, specific location, object description and colour, plus factors such as witness data, object height, duration, direction of motion and peculiarities of the phenomena. Alongside the classifications outlined in FSR Vol. 24, No. 2, and information about identifications that had been discovered by investigators (*all* recorded activity is included in the catalogue but some means of judging potentiality of identification was vital) a fairly comprehensive set of data is made available to the researcher.

The catalogue is intended primarily as a research tool. Its function is not to propose results, but it is hoped it will lead to some. Already many interesting avenues of research using the catalogue have made themselves obvious. There will no doubt be hundreds more.

To add to the value of the work we decided to append three indexes, with each of us specialising on the production of one. This is an index of all the many reference sources (e.g. file numbers, books, magazine articles, newspaper cuttings etc.) to give total back reference to the origin data. Secondly there is an index of all the special features of a case (e.g. photographs, landings, car stops, physical traces etc.) so that specialists in one field or another could have rapid reference within the main body of the catalogue to relevant cases. Finally, there is an index by specific location (i.e. any small localised area named in the report) to facilitate study of such things as Ufocals (window areas) or any factors relevant to the spatial and temporal location of UFO phenomena.

We are very proud of this work and feel that it has not only contributed to the growing science of ufology but, incidentally, has shown how it is possible for the rivalries of UFO groups to be superceded. The

catalogue, when published, will be an achievement for the whole of British ufology.

Already other similar projects are in various stages of preparation. Catalogues for Eastern England and for Wales are in course of preparation. The aim is to build up towards a complete series to cover the UK, and each one would have to be regularly updated. It would be nice to see this extended, on a comparable basis, to other parts of the world and we would certainly like to hear from anyone who might have the inclination and resources to contribute to this aim.

A VERY UNUSUAL FIREWORK

Bryan Hartley

Bryan is perhaps better known overseas than he is in Britain. Invalided by a road accident some years ago he devotes enormous amounts of time to the subject, and has built up a formidable system of world-wide contacts. He fulfills the function of overseas liasion for BUFORA, NUFON and UFOIN. Owing to his circumstances investigation is naturally difficult, but he is able to handle some cases for UFOIN of the West coast of Lancashire and Merseyside.

Classification: November 5 1958 or 1959 Norris Green, Merseyside MED Level B

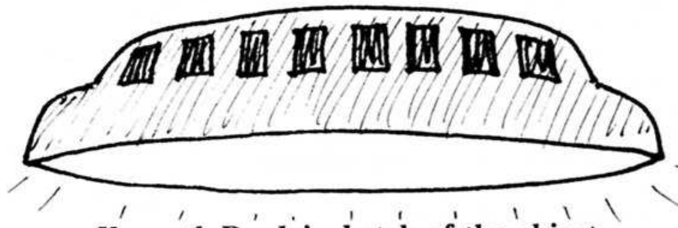
KENNETH DOYLE, aged 28 and an ambulance control officer, recalls an event that took place when he was only 8. It was so long ago, in fact, that he is not sure of the year. He is positive that it was November 5th because of the peculiar ritual performed by people in this country on "Guy Fawkes Night" involving the making of wood bonfires on a large scale, and the letting off of fireworks into the skies, all in celebration of the thwarting of a plot in 1605 to blow up King and parliament.

Given these circumstances, Ken realises one might be tempted to pass off his sighting as just an unusual pyrotechnic, or a misinterpretation caused by the excitement of the evening. However, he feels that the encounter itself was strange enough to rule out this possibility. It has certainly ingrained itself into his memory, and the story was only related when the *Daily Express* requested genuine UFO sightings early in 1978.

So far as he can recall the weather had been dull, with a little rain, but by 7.30 p.m. there was just scattered cloud with a light breeze and it was dry. Ken's attention was drawn towards the sky over Norris Green, where he lived (he thinks that he may have been looking up at a rocket or some other firework). Above him at elevation 75^{o} in the north western sky he caught sight of a round object that gleamed brightly. Within a matter of seconds it was hidden by scudding cloud.

Ken's immediate reaction was that he had seen the moon, but when the object again came in view a few seconds afterwards he quickly realised that this was not the case. The object was very clear and most peçuliar.

He estimates the size as larger than a tennis ball held at arm's length and says it looked spherical in shape, with the perimeter curved slightly down. Indeed he describes it as "...something like a saucer turned upside down. It had what appeared to me to be windows, but they looked black in colour – especially against the glowing silver of the object. The windows were shaped like those of a jet aircraft.



Kenneth Doyle's sketch of the object

Underneath the object there was a brighter glow of white, in comparison with the silver of the object."

The object seemed to be hovering above a nearby church in the Norris Green suburb of Liverpool. He estimates its altitude as about 1000 feet and the diameter as about 90 feet, although he recognises that after twenty years it is difficult to do so accurately – especially as the object seemed to be tilted slightly away from him, revealing some of the underside.

As clouds passed below it only the glow of the light shone through them. When the clouds passed the outline was sharp.

Ken stood watching for about two minutes as the object simply hovered. It was not possible to tell if there was any sound from the UFO, although he heard none. There was quite a lot of background noise. At the time he was with his elder brother, and he tried to make him look up, but he showed no interest. So, in desperation, Ken ran home. This was only 200 yards or so away, and he hoped that he could convince his mother to come back with him and watch the object. However, she refused to do this, insisting that he had only seen a firework of some kind. In disgust he went back outside, but the object had gone.

It was now some ten minutes after the initial sighting. As he reached the front gate there was a flash and suddenly he was surrounded by a bright blue glow. This bathed him totally, but he felt no effects. It lasted for several seconds, long enough for him to realise it was something abnormal. In fear he ran back into the house and remained there.

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GREEK UFO MISCELLANY

Omiros Karajas

Our contributor is associated with a group of investigators known as the Athenian Team of UFO Research. He is in close contact with UFOIN's overseas liason officer, Bryan Hartley, who has made this collection of his reports available to FSR. We are, of course, delighted since this is a part of the world from which few reports are received.

RECENTLY on Greek television there was shown a TV film "The disappearance of Flight 417," a delightfully realistic treatment of an aircraft/UFO encounter, and the subsequent US government cover-up. This stimulated many people to come forward with old UFO sightings. One of these dates to 1925 or 1926 and was investigated by Spiros Vrettos.

Paphos, Cyprus

A young woman and her father were at their pasture a few miles out of the town of Paphos, Cyprus. It was a dull day but not very cloudy. They came upon a circular object hovering over the fields at a moderate height. It was dark and not reflecting the sunlight, but seemed to possess its own source of illumination. It was truly enormous, being described as the size of a saucer held at 20 cm distance. The object remained silently in view for some minutes before the witnesses left. The father said that he had seen it there in the same spot on several occasions and it had always left suddenly by accelerating away.

Island of Samos

In late July/early August 1946, Mr. Amphistion Moslionos, a designer from Athens, was at Pountes on the Island of Samos. About nine in the evening he was alerted by a peardrop-shaped object coloured bright orange that was moving very slowly across the sky. Many others in the area apparantly saw it also. It moved NE to SW, and was in view about 15 minutes. It left a noise like the wind rushing through trees.

Messini

Moving on to November 9, 1955, we have the story of a man and his son who were out hunting near Messini. It was about 6.30 a.m. and the sky was still dark. They were suddenly surrounded by a deep humming noise that struck terror in them. They both hid. Aware that the surrounds were all brightly lit up, they glanced upwards and noticed, about 100 metres from them, a huge disc, about five metres in diameter, which was hovering there. It appeared like an upturned umbrella without the stem. In the centre of this was a large window that was surrounded by a grille, looking somewhat like the radar mast on a ship.

The two men watched in fear as it hovered for a few seconds and then flew away towards the hills where it stopped for thirty minutes. Then it doused its lights. Soon it began to move, the lights pulsing on and off as it did so. It finally disappeared into the distance.

Volos

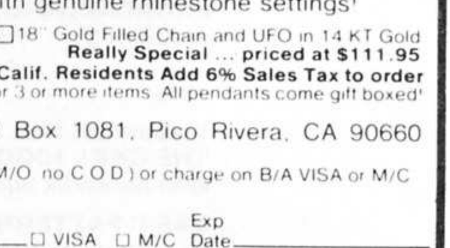
One night in June 1956 at about 11.00 p.m. Miss D. M. and her son were at Philip John Street in Volos when, over the mouth of the river Anavros, they observed a large luminous object. It was about 500 metres above the water. Shaped like a disc it had three conical portions rising from the top. To their left over a hill appeared a smaller red object. This hovered at first.

Suddenly a door seemed to open in the larger object and the small red object then moved towards it, entering the "mothercraft" and going out of sight. This larger UFO then took off very fast and disappeared.

New Halkidona

Finally we move to January 7, 1976, at New Halkidona. Here witness Dimosthenis Louckidellis entered his bedroom at 10.00 a.m. and opened the shutters to confront a very strange dark cloud on an otherwise beautifully clear day. This dropped down 3 or 4 times as if it were a leaf descending on a breeze. Its method of departure is enigmatically summed up by investigator John Michelakis, "...another strange thing is that the object disappeared, but did not vanish. The witness supports this view emphatically."

Due to a technical problem the article *Encounter with a UFO "Missile"* by Trevor Whitaker has been held over until the next issue.

UFO

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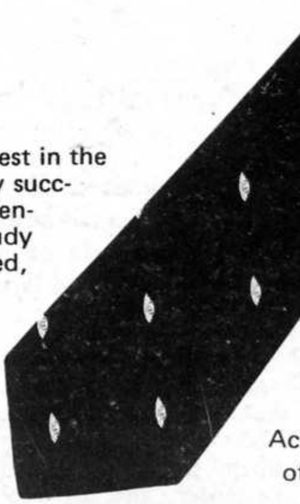

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